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Weekend



New Orleans residents return to their homes.

Coming Due: Katrina victims face mortgages on their ruins | **4**

Marital Vows: S. African court backs gay marriages | **6**



Down Not Out: Redskins still have confidence despite losing streak | **29**

ENTERTAINMENT

Not-So-Superheroine:

Charlize Theron's 'Aeon Flux' opens, but critics weren't invited. Hmm ... Also, 'First Descendant'; Tosca.

>> **11-28**



Weather >> Partly Sunny



46 | 28

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 41

MLB Will Weigh RFK Site

League has not ruled out cheaper site for Nationals' stadium

WASHINGTON | Major League Baseball owners will consider a plan to shift the Washington Nationals' proposed new stadium to the site of RFK Stadium, D.C. Council members said Thursday, following a one-hour meeting with baseball's point man on stadium lease negotiations.

The council sought the meeting with Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf to express concerns about the escalating costs of the new stadium.

Councilman David A. Catania, I-At Large,

and Jim Graham, D-Ward 1, said Reinsdorf agreed to discuss the possibility of shifting the site of the proposed 41,000-seat ballpark with the committee representing the 29 owners who bought the Montreal Expos in 2002 and moved them to Washington this year.

Building the stadium on the site stipulated in the agreement to move the Expos to D.C., the Anacostia waterfront, could cost \$589 million, according to council estimates. Improvements to roads, sidewalks and a nearby Metro station could add another \$100 million.



Reinsdorf

Several members of the panel want to build the stadium at RFK, where the Nationals are slated to play through the 2007 season. They contend that it would be less expensive, particularly if the federal government agrees to transfer

land to the city. Supporters of the original site contend that it offers an opportunity for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of new development, which would not be available the RFK site. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

'Oprah, Dave. Dave, Oprah'



RECONCILED: Oprah Winfrey appeared on "Late Show" Thursday, ending her long-running frostiness toward David Letterman. She gave him a photo of herself with Uma Thurman, harking back to Letterman's disastrous 1995 gig as Oscar host, when he uttered the immortal "Oprah, Uma. Uma, Oprah."

WHOOOPS | Gust a Move Although there were some pretty good wind gusts in Kirksville, Mo., on Monday, indications of a tornado emergency were greatly exaggerated — the sirens that went off sounded because a button was pressed inadvertently while



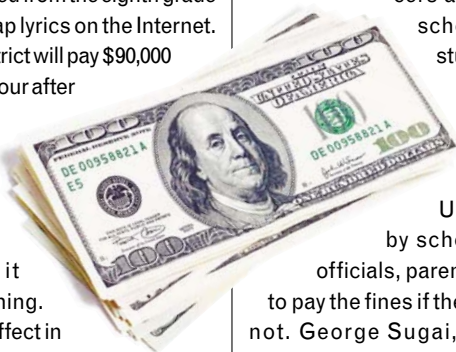
dispatchers at a 911 emergency center were moving some furniture. Officials with the National Weather Service indicated there was no tornadic activity in the area Monday, although wind gusts did exceed 35 miles per hour. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

eyeOpeners

RAPPING

School Can't Ban Me/ Now Hand Over 90G

The Riverside Beaver, Pa., school district has settled a lawsuit with a student who was expelled from the eighth grade after posting rap lyrics on the Internet. The school district will pay \$90,000 to Anthony Latour after the teenager was kicked out of school for lyrics that the district said it found threatening. The ban took effect in May and was to continue through the current school year. But a federal judge ruled that the lyrics didn't constitute "true threats" against the school, and, because of that, are protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution. (AP)



THAT'LL BE \$103

This is @#%@ Ridiculous!

Bad words are costing Hartford, Conn., high schoolers \$103 each. Police officers assigned to the schools are fining students for cursing in a new program to curtail unruly behavior. Under the effort by school and police officials, parents are required to pay the fines if the students cannot. George Sugai, University of Connecticut school discipline professor, is skeptical of the effort. "Research says that punishing kids doesn't teach them the right way to act," he said. But school officials disagree. "We're sending a message to the parents," said an advisor to the superintendent. (AP)



HERBERT PROEPER/AP

FREEZING

Rhinocerice

Where do snowmen go on safari? Perhaps to Luebeck, Germany, where the "Ice World" ice sculpture festival being held. Forty-five artists from around the world are perfecting their icy art pieces — using chain saws, forklifts and movable platforms — based on the theme "Kingdom of Animals" for the event. Uwe Buerkle of Germany (above) carved out a rhino Wednesday. The festival, using 330,000 pounds of snow and 771,000 pounds of ice, opens on Dec. 9 and runs until Jan. 29. (AP)



CHEATING

Uncoachmanlike Conduct

A Los Angeles assistant high school football coach was suspended for at least a year after he was caught on videotape moving a field marker to help his team win, school officials said. The videotape shows the coach improperly moving the marker to help San Pedro High School gain a first down late in the Oct. 28 game. San Pedro scored on the drive and won the game. (AP)

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"I am concerned about any actions which may erode the independence of the Iraqi media."

—Sen. John Warner, on allegations the U.S. military is paying for positive news in Iraq

Nation

General Responds to War Criticism

Pace says military must better explain its progress in Iraq

WASHINGTON | If the American public has a distorted picture of the combat readiness of Iraqi troops, the U.S. military is largely to blame for it, the most senior American military officer said Thursday.

"We have done ourselves a disservice in the way that we have defined how we are tracking the

progress of Iraqi forces," Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told an audience of military and civilian students at the National Defense University.

Pace's first public speech on Iraq since he became Joint Chiefs chairman on Oct. 1 came one day after President Bush outlined his



Pace

administration's strategy for achieving victory in Iraq.

Pace was among several senior officials who spoke publicly Thursday about the strategy for winning in Iraq. Eric Edelman, the under secretary of defense for policy, spoke to members of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Edelman, whose predecessor, Douglas J. Feith, was considered one of the architects of the Iraq war, said senior U.S. military commanders told him on a recent visit

to Iraq that they are very optimistic about stabilizing the country, a goal requiring the cooperation of trained Iraqi forces.

Pace said the U.S. military's means of measuring progress in Iraq has created confusion.

"In an attempt to be very precise with ourselves, to give ourselves metrics that we could all understand, we have done ourselves and everyone who is listening to us a disservice," Pace said.

ROBERT BURNS (AP)



Anti-death penalty advocates rally to stop the execution of Kenneth Boyd.

N.C. Set For 1,000th U.S. Execution

RALIEGH, N.C. | A man who killed his wife and father-in-law pinned his hopes on last-minute intervention from the governor or the courts as he awaited lethal injection early Friday in the nation's 1,000th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

Kenneth Lee Boyd, set to die at 2 a.m., spent the day receiving visitors, including two sons who watched him gun down their mother and grandfather in 1988.

Larger-than-normal crowds of protesters were expected at the prison in Raleigh, and vigils were planned across the state.

Boyd spent Thursday visiting with his family.

The U.S. Supreme Court and the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected appeals by Boyd's lawyers Thursday. ESTES THOMPSON (AP)

Congressman: Troops In Iraq Are 'Worn Out'

Murtha predicts most U.S. forces will return home within a year

LATROBE, PA | U.S. Rep. John Murtha predicted most U.S. troops will leave Iraq within a year because the Army is "broken, worn out" and "living hand-to-mouth."

Murtha, a decorated war veteran who called two weeks ago for the U.S. military to begin a troop withdrawal immediately, repeated his belief Wednesday that troops will be pulled from Iraq before the end of 2006, saying President Bush will make the withdrawal appear as though the U.S. is "staying the course."

"I predict he'll make it look like we're staying the course," Murtha said, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported. Murtha, 73, the ranking Democrat on the House



Murtha

Appropriations defense subcommittee, said a civil war is likely in Iraq because of factionalism among Sunni Arabs, and Kurds and Shiites.

He also said he was wrong to vote to support the war.

"I admit I made a mistake when I voted for war," Murtha said. "I'm looking at the future of the United States military." (AP)

ANNIVERSARIES | REMEMBERING ROSA PARKS



HISTORY LESSON: Lenora Givens reads about Rosa Parks to third-grade students from Blackshear Elementary in Austin, Texas. Thursday marked the 50th anniversary of Parks' arrest for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, sparking the modern Civil Rights movement.

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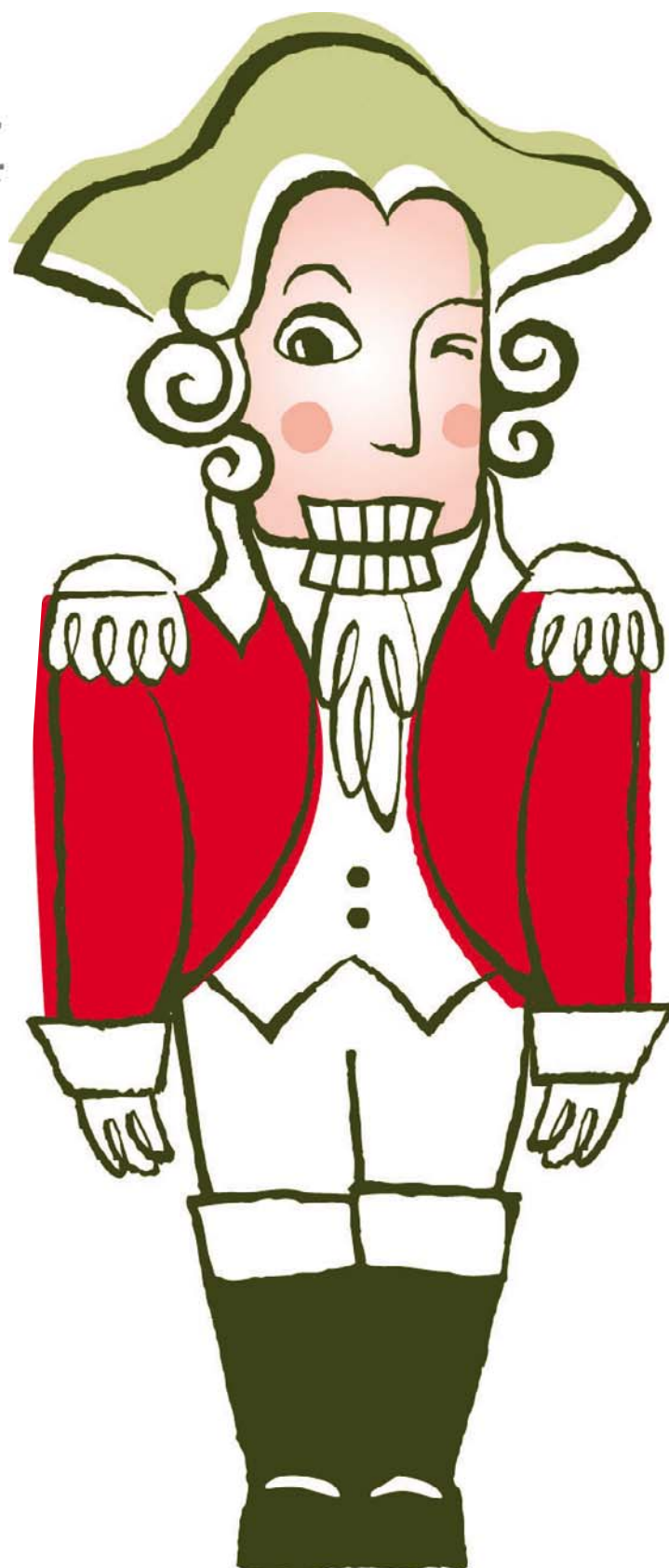
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The estimated strength, in miles per hour, of wind gusts that slammed two window-washers trapped on their scaffolding into a Denver office building Thursday. Firefighters rescued the two from the 12th floor of the 22-story structure.

Nation

In Brief

CHICAGO

Former Media Baron Black Pleads Not Guilty to Fraud

Former media baron Conrad Black pleaded not guilty to federal fraud charges Thursday in connection with the alleged looting of more than \$80 million from the Hollinger International Inc. newspaper empire he once controlled. Black was arraigned in U.S. District Court, two weeks after being indicted for cheating on taxes and pilfering millions from the company to support a lavish lifestyle. (AP)



Black

LAS VEGAS

Woman Comes Forward as Accomplice in Casino Heist

A former armored car driver who turned herself in after more than 10 years in hiding pleaded guilty Wednesday in a \$2.9 million heist on the Las Vegas Strip. Heather Tallchief, 33, surrendered after living for years in Amsterdam under an assumed name. Her lawyers said she was tired of hiding and wanted her son to have a normal life. (AP)

WOODSIDE, CALIF.

Gorilla Handlers Settle Breast-Baring Lawsuit

Two animal handlers who say they were fired for refusing to expose their breasts to a 300-pound gorilla have settled their lawsuit against the Gorilla Foundation on undisclosed terms. The women claimed that Gorilla Foundation president Francine "Penny" Patterson pressured them to indulge Koko the gorilla's "nipple fetish" as a way of bonding with the female. (AP)

Redistricting Panned

→ Justice Department attorneys concluded that the landmark redistricting plan spearheaded by Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, violated the Voting Rights Act, but senior department officials overruled their findings and approved the plan, according to a previously undisclosed memo. | **Today, Page A1**

The Washington Post

Katrina Victims' Mortgages Due

Grace period offered by lenders ends in storm-ravaged Gulf

NEW ORLEANS | For many homeowners along the Gulf Coast, December brings a cruel cut-off: It marks the end of an informal 90-day grace period that many lenders offered to Hurricane Katrina victims that let them put their mortgage payments on hold.

Banks and lenders cannot forgive loans entirely without risking the stability of their institutions. Some homeowners will have to pay off



Marks and Yvonne Labostrie sift through the remains of their New Orleans house Thursday. Mortgage firms have begun asking for payments on destroyed property.

debt for years, whether they rebuild or move away; others will be forced to declare bankruptcy. The scope of the problem is unclear, three months after Katrina came ashore Aug. 29.

"This month will be a major turning point for most Katrina victims," said Pass Christian resident Philip LaGrange, who is trying to rebuild his 160-year-old bed-and-breakfast.

"They've been sheltered with no mortgage payments for three months," he said. "Now, as a December Christmas gift, mortgage payments are due."

ROBERT TANNER (AP)

City Test Scores Gain In Math, Not Reading

Urban students match national improvement but some gaps persist

WASHINGTON | Just like students nationwide, children in major U.S. cities are getting better in math but struggling to improve in reading, a new federal snapshot shows.

On the test considered to be the standard of academic progress, city students also often did as well or better in 2005 than kids of the same race or ethnicity across the country.

Urban educators said the new scores, released Thursday, show that urban fourth-graders and eighth-graders are moving ahead despite facing greater poverty and academic challenges.

The 11 school districts from

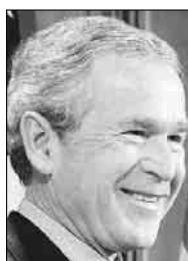
ACHIEVEMENT GAP

City students lagged behind the national average in some areas:

- **Fourth- and eighth-graders** in all but two of the school districts fell below national achievement levels in math.
- **High poverty levels** were closely linked to low achievement in all districts.
- **More than half** of fourth-graders in Cleveland, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Washington fell below the basic reading levels.

across the U.S. volunteering for the National Assessment of Educational Progress enroll more than 1 in 10 of the nation's public school students, plus a disproportionately large share of minorities and kids with limited English ability. BEN FELLER (AP)

HEARSAY | DO YOUR DUTY



"Jury duty is a very important civic function, but running the country, I think, especially in wartime, takes priority over jury service."

—TEXAS DISTRICT JUDGE RALPH STROTHER
ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S SELECTION TO SERVE JURY DUTY MONDAY IN TEXAS. THE WHITE HOUSE SAID BUSH HAS PRIOR COMMITMENTS.

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World



NEW ADDRESS: The European Union expects a surge of applications when its EU-wide Web domain name ".eu" opens for registration, the bloc's executive commission said Thursday. Registration for an .eu domain name begins on Dec. 7.

In Brief

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

European Lawmakers Want Answers on Secret Prisons

European lawmakers accused EU countries Thursday of failing to address allegations of CIA secret prisons and flights across the continent and demanded to know "who was on those flights, where they went." Allegations the CIA hid and interrogated key al Qaeda suspects at Soviet-era compounds in Eastern Europe were first reported in The Washington Post. Several EU governments have launched investigations into the allegations, but so far most have only vigorously denied media reports about apparent aircraft landings and secret jails. (AP)

GAZIPUR, BANGLADESH

Man Dressed as Tea Vendor Throws Bomb, Killing One

A bomb thrown by an Islamic militant disguised as a tea vendor exploded outside a government building Thursday in a town near the Bangladeshi capital, killing one person and wounding at least 29, authorities said. The militant, who was captured after the blast, threw a tea container holding the bomb after he refused to be searched by police, officials said. Authorities rushed 16 of the most seriously injured to a hospital, where one person died, said Dr. Mozammel Haq. (AP)

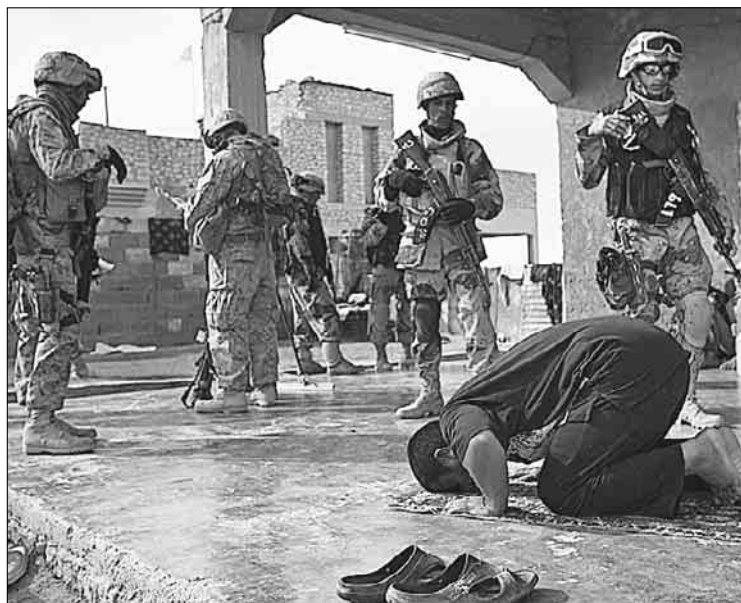
Suicide Bombing Rate Falls in Iraq

But November is still bloody month for U.S. as death toll hits 85

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Suicide bombings fell in November to their lowest level in seven months, the American military said Thursday, citing the success of U.S.-Iraqi military operations against insurgent and foreign fighter sanctuaries near the Syrian border.

But the trend in Iraq has not resulted in less bloodshed: 85 U.S. troops died during the month, one of the highest tolls since the invasion.

In Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, the U.S. military played down reports by residents and police of widespread attacks Thursday



ON GUARD: An Iraqi man prays while Iraqi soldiers and U.S. Marines enter his house on Thursday while patrolling Saadah, a town eight miles from the Syrian border.

against American and Iraqi installations in the city. The military said only one rocket-propelled grenade was fired at an observation post, causing no casualties.

Nevertheless, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, a coalition operations officer, warned that al Qaeda in Iraq, led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, will likely step up attacks in the next two weeks to try to disrupt parliamentary elections Dec. 15.

Lynch also told reporters that suicide bombings declined to 23 in November.

The U.S. command said Thursday that four American service members were killed the day before, three of them from hostile action and the fourth in a traffic accident. CHRIS TOMLINSON (AP)

Singapore Hangs Man on Drug Charge

SINGAPORE | Singapore executed Australian heroin trafficker Nguyen Tuong Van early Friday in a case that triggered an outcry in his country, where people held vigils at the hour of his hanging. Australia's prime minister said the execution would damage relations between the countries.

"The sentence was carried out this morning at Changi Prison,"

Singapore's Home Affairs



Nguyen

Ministry said in a statement. It said Nguyen had failed in his appeals to the Court of Appeal, and to President S.R. Nathan for clemency.

Vietnam-born Nguyen, 25, was

hanged before dawn despite numerous appeals from Australian leaders for his life to be spared. He received a mandatory death sentence after being caught with 14 ounces of heroin at the city-state's Changi Airport in 2002.

Nguyen's twin brother, Nguyen Khoa, entered the prison compound, but did not attend the execution.

Nguyen Tuong Van had said he was trafficking heroin to help pay off his twin's debts. (AP)



Emily the cat made it all the way to France from the U.S. in a cargo container.

S. African Court OKs Gay Marriages

Judges give Parliament a year to make changes to nation's marital law

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA | South Africa's highest court ruled in favor of gay marriage Thursday, a landmark decision that clears the way for the country to become the first to legalize same-sex unions on a continent where homosexuality remains largely taboo.

The decision does not take immediate effect, however. The Constitutional Court, which decided it is unconstitutional to prohibit gays from marrying, gave Parliament a year to make the nec-



A panel of judges delivered the ruling on gay marriages in Johannesburg.

essary legal changes. That disappointed gay rights activists, some of whom have been waiting years to wed.

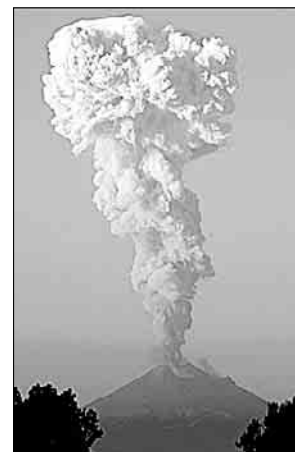
Canada, the Netherlands,

Belgium and Spain are the only nations that now allow gay marriage nationwide.

South Africa recognized the rights of gay people in the constitution adopted after apartheid ended in 1994 — the first in the world to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. But the government has opposed attempts to extend the definition of marriage in court to include same-sex couples in the mostly Christian country.

The court instructed Parliament to extend the legal definition within a year, or else the courts would automatically do so, the South African Press Association reported. (AP)

MEXICO | BLOWING UP



ERUPTION: Popocatepetl Volcano spits out a cloud of ashes in Puebla, Mexico, on Thursday. Residents were told to take cover from the debris.

Adventurous Cat Flies Out of Paris

MILWAUKEE | Emily the cat is back — after flying home in the lap of luxury.

The curious cat who wound up traveling to France in a cargo container touched down at the Milwaukee airport on Thursday, and was reunited with her family.

Emily vanished from her Wisconsin home in late September. She apparently wandered into a nearby paper company's distribution center and crawled into a container of paper bales.

The container went by truck to Chicago and by ship to Belgium before the cat was found Oct. 24 in Nancy, France. Continental offered to fly the cat home from Paris after Emily's tale spread around the world and she cleared a one-month quarantine. (AP)



MAESTRO'S MUSINGS: A working manuscript of Ludwig van Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge" sold for \$1.72 million to an anonymous buyer, Sotheby's auctioneers in London report. The hand-written manuscript for the piano duet is 80 pages long.

World

Transplant Surgery Stirs Critics

Questions linger after news of landmark French face operation

PARIS | An ethics debate broke out over the world's first partial face transplant Thursday with one surgeon challenging the decision to operate.

Some doctors also raised concerns about the psychological health of the French woman who received a transplanted nose, lips and chin on Sunday. She had been brutally mauled by a dog in May, and her identity remains unknown.

Dr. Laurent Lantieri, an adviser to the French medical ethics panel, said the surgeons who operated violated the panel's advice because they failed to try reconstructive surgery first. He said a transplant donor was immediately sought without trying to repair the woman's face with more conventional surgery.

The panel had previously objected to full face transplants but said partial ones could be considered under strict circumstances, such as first trying normal surgery.

However, surgeon Denys Pellerin, of the National Consultative Ethics Committee advised by Lantieri said, "as long as the transplant is not total, it is not unethical."

Also, Carine Camby, director general of the French health agency that coordinates organ procurement, said normal reconstructive surgery could not have been used in this case. (AP)

HEARSAY | TOXICITY

"Nowadays, who's going to take care of you? You need to take care of yourself."

—LIDIYA VLADIMIROVA
OF KHABAROVSK, RUSSIA, ON THE CITY'S PREPARATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF A TOXIC SLICK OF BENZENE THAT SEEPED INTO RIVER WATERS UPSTREAM IN CHINA AFTER A NOV. 13 ACCIDENT AT A CHEMICAL PLANT.

Violence Shakes Egyptian Election

Final stage of vote for parliament marred by clashes with police

MANSOURA, EGYPT | Violence racked the final round of Egypt's troubled parliamentary elections Thursday, as police opened fire on crowds and used nightsticks and tear gas to bar voters from entering polling stations in opposition strongholds.

At least one person was killed and 60 were wounded, said Mohammed el-Ashqar, a campaign worker for a leftist opposition candidate.

The Interior Ministry confirmed the death, saying the victim was a government supporter. It blamed the opposition Muslim Brotherhood group for the clash, saying its supporters attacked voters and judges monitoring the polls.

Although voting proceeded without violence or intimidation in some areas, voters were met at the polls by lines of police in towns where ruling party candidates faced stiff competition from the opposition. The only people allowed through were those who said they would cast ballots for President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party.



Egyptian voters use ladders to climb into a polling station blocked by police.

In the town of Kafr el-Sheik, north of Cairo, police tried to disperse an unruly crowd with nightsticks and tear gas, bringing volleys of stones from the voters. Police then opened fire, el-Ashqar said, using live ammunition. The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights said rubber bullets were fired.

The elections, which began Nov. 9, have been plagued by battles between the government and the Brotherhood, Egypt's main Islamic group. The Brotherhood racked up seats in the two election stages last month, increasing its presence in parliament fivefold. (AP)



Ukrainian girls hold candles during an AIDS awareness rally in Kiev on Thursday.

Nations Mark World AIDS Day

FATICK, SENEGAL | Schoolchildren in Senegal pledged to abstain from sex and Indian village women cast off a veil of shame about their HIV status as World AIDS Day was marked around the globe Thursday.

About 40 million people worldwide are now infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Africa, with only 10 percent of the world's population, suffers over half of its HIV infections.

In India, some 70 HIV-infected women stepped out of the shadows during a rally in Golaghat, a town in eastern Assam state, to acknowledge that they are living

with the disease and should not be shunned.

An estimated 5.1 million people are living with HIV in India — the most in any single country except South Africa.

The British government marked World AIDS Day by contributing \$48 million to the global fight against the disease.

Estonia's National Institute for Health Development campaigned Thursday for increased tolerance of HIV-infected persons. With over 5,000 diagnosed cases, Estonia has one of the highest numbers of HIV-infections in Europe. (AP)

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Money

Flu Could Bug Businesses

Survey: Many firms lack contingency plans for super-flu outbreak

WASHINGTON | If a super-flu sweeps the globe, who will haul away the garbage? Keep the factories running, making cars and computers and tissues? Stock and sell groceries? Keep electricity flowing?

Most U.S. companies haven't planned for how to stay in business during a flu pandemic, when their workers may be too sick or scared to show up and their supply chains disappear, a major new

survey of some of the nation's largest firms shows.

Two-thirds of the businesses surveyed said their companies were inadequately prepared to protect themselves during a pandemic and, demonstrating a surprising fatalism, 39 percent believed there wasn't much they could do.

The results also raise public health concerns: When asked if they would waive sick-leave restrictions to encourage potentially contagious employees to stay home, 63 percent of the companies were undecided and 10 percent said they would not.

"Corporate America is like everybody — they read it and see it on television but they really can't completely digest it," former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said of the flu threat.

His new industry think tank, part of Deloitte & Touche USA, sponsored the survey, to be released Friday. The gathering of about 25 corporate giants and public health specialists will focus on how to prepare for what scientists insist is the growing risk of a worldwide influenza outbreak, sparked either by the Asian bird flu or some other super-strain. LAURAN NEERGAARD (AP)

Discounts Fail to Bolster Auto Sales

DETROIT | Auto sales fell in November, and though they still outpaced a dismal October, the results were disappointing to U.S. automakers who introduced a flurry of discounts to lure buyers to showrooms.

General Motors Corp.'s sales were down 11.3 percent, led by a 16.7 percent decrease in sales of trucks and SUVs and a 3 percent decrease in car sales.

Ford Motor Co. said sales of its Ford, Lincoln and Mercury



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Automakers had hoped that new discounts would move customers to buy.

brands fell 18 percent compared to last November. Car sales slid 6 percent despite strong demand

for the company's new Ford Fusion, Mercury Milan and Lincoln Zephyr sedans. Sales of Ford trucks and sport utility vehicles slipped 22 percent, led by a sharp 52 percent decline in sales of the mid-size Ford Explorer SUV.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s car sales were up 9.3 percent for the month, led by sales of its Lexus luxury sedans, but sales of trucks and SUVs were up just 1 percent for an overall sales increase of 5.5 percent.

DEE-ANN DURBIN (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
LamSessn	28.79	+4.81	+20.1
FlaRock s	55.67	+5.80	+11.6
Vitro	3.88	+3.8	+10.9
Bluegreen	16.40	+1.53	+10.3
BallyTF If	7.72	+7.1	+10.1

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Bombay	3.41	-.55	-13.9
Pier 1	11.62	-1.08	-8.5
WolvTub	4.73	-.43	-8.3
LLE Ry	3.66	-.26	-6.6
BBVABFrn	7.40	-.36	-4.6

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Elamex	2.26	+.76	+50.7
PW Eagle	22.31	+3.57	+19.1
AcadiaPh	10.29	+1.52	+17.3
Pantry	47.90	+6.80	+16.5
BioDlvry If	2.75	+.35	+14.6

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
RigelPh	8.01	-13.91	-63.5
SFBC Intl	15.64	-5.45	-25.8
Noven	11.17	-2.34	-17.3
JosphBnk	43.06	-6.95	-13.9
MTC Tech	28.48	-4.29	-13.1

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	7.00	7.00
Fed Funds close	4.00	4.00
3-month	3.88	3.86
2-year	4.43	4.35
10-year	4.52	4.47
30-year	4.72	4.71

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5777	.5784	.5174
Canadian Dollar	1.1639	1.1645	1.1832
European Euro	.8522	.8481	.7508
Japanese Yen	120.46	119.81	102.69
Mexican Peso	10.4900	10.5510	11.1470
Taiwanese Dollar	33.56	33.47	32.19

DOW NASDAQ S&P 500

	DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
	+106.70	+34.35	+15.19
	+0.99	+1.54	+1.22
	10912.57	2267.17	1264.67

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
Allergan	99.62	-.38	+22.9
AstraZen	46.86	+.81	+28.8
BarrPhm	57.52	+.17	+26.3
BrMySq	21.63	+.04	-15.6
ForestLab	39.34	+.27	-12.3
Hospira	44.30	+.15	+32.2
IvaxCorp	30.05	+.09	+89.9
JohnJn	61.69	-.06	-2.7
LillyEli	51.50	+1.00	-9.3
Merck	29.68	+.28	-7.7
MylanLab	20.92	+.03	+18.3
Pfizer	21.38	+.18	-20.5
SchergPl	19.05	-.27	-8.8
Sepracor	55.25	+.27	-6.9
Wyeth	41.20	-.36	-3.3

3.2%

The percent of Virginians who were unemployed in October, according to statistics from the state. In September, the unemployment rate was 3.5 percent. Northern Virginia had the state's lowest unemployment at 2.3 percent in October.

Local

In Brief

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Cell Phone Bandit Suspect's Boyfriend Pleads Guilty

Less than three weeks after his arrest, the boyfriend of the accused "cell phone bandit" admitted in court Thursday that he helped plan and pull off four bank robberies in Northern Virginia. Dave C. Williams, 19, of Fairfax, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and weapons charges. Williams admitting helping Candice R. Martinez rob four Wachovia Bank branches from Oct. 12 to Nov. 4. Martinez, also 19, was arrested Nov. 15, just hours after police took Williams into custody. She is suspected of being the woman seen in a surveillance camera videotape talking on a cell phone while calmly robbing a bank. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Metro May Introduce New Card for Parking Lots

Subway station managers say they get plenty of grumbling from tourists and occasional riders about having to buy a SmarTrip card just to get out of parking garages or lots. The Metro Board had the chance Thursday to embark on an effort to sell cards that would only work for parking. But the board ended up delaying action in hopes of getting questions and concerns answered. The cheaper, less sturdy cards would cost \$5, of which \$1 would be a card fee and \$4 would be for the parking charge — just more than enough for one day. (AP)

ATF: Arsonist Set Many More Fires

Sweatt's 45 blazes may be only the tip of iceberg

WASHINGTON | A man who pleaded guilty to setting 45 fires in the Washington region was responsible for far more arsons, federal investigators said Thursday.

"There's a significant amount of fires," Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agent Scott Fulkerson told WUSA-TV. He said Thomas Sweatt had been setting fires as far back as 1985.

"Since the time of Mr. Sweatt's arrest we've learned a significant amount," Fulkerson said.

Sweatt, the manager of a fast food restaurant in the nation's capital, was arrested April 27. He later admitted that between February 2003 and December 2004, he set 45 fires in the District of Columbia, Prince George's and Montgomery counties in Maryland, Fairfax and Arlington counties in



Sweatt

Virginia and the City of Alexandria, Va.

Under a plea deal, local prosecutors agreed not to charge Sweatt with other arsons.

Sweatt also pleaded guilty to murder charges in the deaths of two elderly Northeast Washington women. One died when her home was torched. The other died of smoke inhalation a few days after Sweatt set fire to her next door neighbor's house.

In September, a federal judge sentenced Sweatt to life in prison plus 136 years. (AP)

JURY CONVICTS MAN IN IMPERSONATION CASE

A Prince George's County jury on Thursday found a man guilty of two counts of impersonating a fire marshal during the height of the serial arsons on March 29, 2004. Noel Gibson had been accused of walking into a Lanham elementary school claiming to be a fire marshal. For a time, the impersonator was thought to be the arsonist. Gibson could face seven years in prison when he is sentenced. (AP)

IN The Washington Post | SPINNING THE TALES OF D.C. CABBIES



DRIVERS' DAY OFF: D.C.'s cabbies gathered on Thursday at the Hotel Helix for a cab-driver appreciation event where stories of angry and drunk customers, robberies and potholed city streets were exchanged. Here, Hashi Mohamud, originally of Somalia, spins a wheel of prizes. He ended up winning a free night's stay at the hotel. | **Today in Metro**

Execution Delay Bid Rejected

Baker's lawyers say fatal mixture of drugs will cause great pain

BALTIMORE | A federal judge on Thursday rejected a bid by Wesley Baker to delay his execution by lethal injection, saying the inmate had not proved his claim that the drugs used by the state cause unnecessary pain.

District Court Judge William Quarles denied Baker's request for an injunction that would have delayed the execution, set for next week, for the 1991 murder of a woman in Baltimore County.

In a short hearing in U.S. District Court, a doctor from Columbia University testifying on Baker's behalf said there are less painful alternatives to the mix of three drugs, meant to anesthetize and stop the breathing and heart of a condemned inmate.

Noting the Maryland Court of Appeals had rejected a similar claim by Steven Oken, who was executed last year, Quarles said Baker had not demonstrated that the state's lethal injection amounted to a violation of the U.S. Constitution's protection against cruel and unusual punishment. STEPHEN MANNING (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 1

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	3-1-1
Evening Lucky Numbers	3-8-2
Mid-day DC 4	8-0-3-8
Evening DC 4	7-5-4-5
Rolling Cash Five	30-05-20-32-11
Daily 6	02-10-39-25-11-17 Bonus: 37
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	03-04-14-25-26 (07)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	4-3-7
Evening Pick 3	2-0-8
Mid-day Pick 4	5-7-4-4
Evening Pick 4	5-3-2-7

Match 5 **05-07-11-24-37 Bonus: 14**
Lotto (Wed.) **02-09-19-21-39-48**

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	1-9-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-1-8
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	0-0-3-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	9-5-0-2
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	02-10-16-19-23
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	02-11-21-24-26
Lotto South (Wed.)	06-10-12-15-20-29

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	19-23-27-42-52 (01)
Power Play	05

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Kidnapped Va. Man Kept Blog in Iraq

MCLEAN, VA. | As soon as he arrived in Baghdad in October 2004, Tom Fox contemplated the possibility that he would be kidnapped.

"I am to stand firm against the kidnapper as I am to stand firm against the soldier," Fox wrote in one of the first entries in his Web log detailing his work in Iraq as a Christian peace activist. Fox, 54, a Clear Brook, Va., resident who has been active in Virginia's Quaker churches, is among four members of Christian Peacemaker Teams who were kidnapped this week by a group calling itself the Swords of

Righteousness Brigade.



Fox

U.S. military men and contractors with whom he made contact.

He quoted philosopher Thomas Hobbes to describe the situation in Iraq as "the war of the all against the all." MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

Fox's blog entries reveal a man who struggled to remain hopeful about Iraq's future and had deep misgivings about the mindsets of the



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WED: 12/14 - FREE PARTY - W. BUSTER, SUNEEL, SECTION8, PROXXY & LANTERN

FRI: 12/16 - MARK FARINA

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SATURDAYS: M3. HOUSE, DEEP HOUSE, ELECTRONIC DANCE, DISCO & HIP-HOP. 9PM - 5AM

SUNDAYS: TRADE. VISIT WWW.TRADEPROMOTIONSDC.COM OR EMAIL: INFO@TRADEPROMOTIONSDC.COM FOR MORE INFO. 9PM - 2AM.

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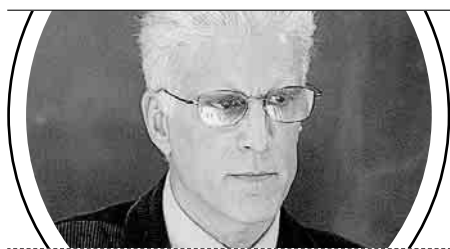
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TELEVISION

Grand Master: Ted Danson's rekindled passion for the game of chess led to an improved game and a TV biopic of a chess hero | 27

Entertainment Weekend

Way Too Cool

'First Descent' has great action shots, but it goes downhill

FILM | "First Descent" may not be enough of a ride for snowboarders, who probably would love this documentary about their sport to run to epic length.

For everyone else, "First Descent" may be too long a trip, its approach overly broad and unfocused as the filmmakers try to incorporate a personal story of five thrill-riding snowboarding stars into a generic chronicle of the sport's development.

At nearly two hours, "First Descent" ends up belaboring the snowboarding phenomenon more than illuminating it. The film progresses in stops and starts as it flits from truly spectacular mountain sequences to repetitive, self-congratulatory interviews in which snowboarders prattle on about what



GRABBING HOT AIR: Despite spectacular action, "First Descent" is snow bored.

innovative rebels they all are.

What salvages much of the movie for non-snowboarders are the remarkable images of boarders sailing down endless, nearly perpendicular walls of snow. You can dust off clichés such as "jaw-dropping" for some of those moments, which look physically impossible to survive.

Directors Kevin Harrison and Kemp Curley, whose production company has handled TV coverage of the X Games and other sports, rounded up old-guard boarders and new stars for a jaunt to Alaska.

Unfortunately, such thrills are dulled with filler as Harrison and Curley provide copious interviews and archival footage to trace how snowboarding evolved from a fringe pastime frowned on by skiers to the rage of resorts everywhere.

A little bit of that general background would have gone a long way toward putting the adventures of the film's five principals in perspective. Yet the story of rebels who became icons feels like the same tale already told in the skateboarding documentary "Dogtown and Z-Boys" and the surfing chronicle "Riding Giants," both of them better films with more insight on their sports, the participants and their cultural impact. **DAVID GERMAIN (AP)**

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



The bittersweet squares at Kingsbury Chocolates will please out-of-towners.

Where should I go for good local chocolate? I want to send something to my parents for Christmas that they can't get at home.

Here are some choices in the chocolate department: Les Delices d'Isabelle, Kingsbury Chocolates, Chocolate, Chocolate and Chocolate Moose. Hope your parents enjoy.

Les Delices d'Isabelle, 1531 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-944-1898.

Kingsbury Chocolates, 1017 King St., Alexandria; 703-548-2800.

Chocolate Chocolate, 1050 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-466-2190. (Farragut North-Farragut West)

Chocolate Moose, 1743 L St. NW; 202-463-0992. (Dupont Circle)

I heard that there is going to be a Downtown Holiday Market at the old Convention Center site. Do you have any more details?

The Downtown Business Improvement District said it hadn't quite worked out which local musical acts would be performing, but they have some details about the craft fair: It will be sort of like a holiday-themed Eastern Market. They will have toys, ornaments and other crafts. The biggest draw may be its location — the old Convention Center site. It's open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

11th and H streets NW; 703-534-7612. (Metro Center)

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | WASHINGTONPOST.COM/liveonline

'Whatever': Panic at the Palace

A TV biopic on the Windsor clan is as funny as it is absurd

FACT VS. FICTION | Oh, those wacky Windsors. If you harbor any doubts that the story of the British royal family has digressed from drama to tragedy to farce, they will be dispelled by the 2005 TV movie "Charles & Camilla: Whatever Love Means" (8 p.m., WE).

It's supposed to be a plea for understanding for England's star-crossed lovebirds, now united in holy matrimony after decades of scandal. But it gets funnier as it unfolds, while at the same time depicting the royal family as the most dysfunctional bunch this

side of Jerry Springer's couch.

Charles (Laurence Fox) has the misfortune of becoming the Prince of Wales at a time when the world seems more enamored of sex, drugs and rock and roll than duty, crown and country.

Charles falls for Camilla (Olivia Poulet) in 1970. She's a down-to-earth commoner given to bad hairdos, worse wardrobes and utter frankness. She's quick to remind Prince Chuck that her past is not exactly chaste and that all they can share is a fling.

Years go by, Charles enters the navy, Camilla marries Andrew Parker Bowles, the prince goes through a retinue of glittering Eurotrash who receive cold glances from the royal mum and the



HAPPILY EVER AFTER: "Camilla" and "Charles" look veddy Seventies.

soundtrack of "Whatever Love Means" could be released "The Worst and Weirdest Hits of the '70s."

All the time, he pines for Camilla, the only woman who understands him and gets his jokes. The film reaches its perverse apotheosis when Camilla decides to procure a proper wife for Charles. And as she lurches into "Dangerous Liaisons" mode, the film's soundtrack offers a snippet from the theme to "The Deer Hunter." It's no secret what doe-like innocent has fallen into Camilla's crosshairs.

Nineteen-year-old Lady Diana Spencer (Michelle Duncan, tottering under the worst wig ever worn) is presented here as Very Last Virgin On The Planet Earth. Mercifully, "Whatever" concludes on the eve of Charles and Diana's 1981 wedding. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)**

Weekend | Entertainment

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NATURAL HIGHS | Trip-hoppers Tosca are positively mind-altering: A spin or two of their new disc, "J.A.C." effects greater inner peace than decades of transcendental meditation and psychotherapy put together.

Comprised of electronic-music titan Richard Dorfmeister and classical pianist Rupert Huber, Tosca is set to perform — along with two emcees and a massive light show — in D.C. for the first time on Sunday. Fellow-travelers Thievery Corporation booked the gig at the 9:30 Club.

Dorfmeister, reached by phone at his home in Vienna, was happy to answer a few queries. We started by asking him who his favorite American DJs are. Dorfmeister responded by laughing for a preternaturally long time.

Was this producer of sophisticated, layered, comely "chill-out" music (and proprietor of the G-stone label) himself a little stoned?

Asked how it felt to hear his work described as "perfect music for stoners," he replied, "I'm fine with it." Dorfmeister explained that, in his opinion, music is inevitably categorized, and the labels



ORIGINAL G-STONERS: Tosca features Richard Dorfmeister, right, looking lucid.

applied to the down-tempo, bass-heavy soundscapes he creates won't prevent him from doing what he wants in the future. The chill-out guru reserves the right to release an up-tempo record.

In 1998 Dorfmeister released a celebrated, nearly-gold selling remix album with his longtime collaborator Peter Kruder. He's been asked to re-work the music of artists from Bone Thugs-n-Harmony to Madonna and Depeche Mode. But there aren't any remix projects on his immediate horizon. Dorfmeister said that he may do some eventually, but currently would rather work on his own music than get locked into producing other people's.

He enjoys releasing other folks' work, though: Dorfmeister couldn't think of a single downside to running his slowly-growing G-Stone imprint and has no aspirations to record for a larger label. "We've been offered a lot of money, but it was always a goal of ours to do everything independently," he said. "I don't want anyone else to have a say in our music or art."

Beautiful, lushly arranged down-tempo grooves, a remarkably light show and a desire to stick it to the man: Self-respecting trip-hop heads and avant-music aficionados look forward to slow dancing into Monday morning.

TIM FOLLOS (EXPRESS)

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Family Awards Get 'Lost'

'King of Queens,' 'Reba,' also honored by TV advertisers

AWARDS | ABC's "Lost" and CBS's "King of Queens" took top family-friendly honors at the seventh annual Family Television Awards.

"Lost" was named best drama and "King of Queens" won for best comedy at Wednesday night's awards ceremony. Winners are chosen by members of the Association of National Advertisers to honor outstanding programming for



Jerry Stiller accepts "Queens" award.

family viewing.

CBS's "Amazing Race" won for best reality program and UPN's "Everybody Hates Chris" won for

best new series. Best movie honors went to the TNT film, "The Wool Cap." The WB's long-running family series "7th Heaven" took home a lifetime achievement award.

Ty Pennington was named best reality host for his work on "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," and Jim Belushi, star of "According to Jim," won as best actor.

Reba McEntire, star of the "Reba" series on the WB, was named best actress. McEntire also hosted the hourlong awards program, which is scheduled to air on the WB on Dec. 11. (AP)

The Declaration of the No Kill Movement in the United States

This year, some five million dogs and cats will be killed in shelters. The vast majority can and should be placed into loving homes or should never enter shelters in the first place. But there is hope.

No Kill sheltering models, based on innovative, non-lethal programs and services, have already saved the lives of tens of thousands of animals. But instead of embracing No Kill, many shelters - and their national agency allies - cling to their failed models of the past, models that result in the killing of millions of dogs and cats in U.S. shelters every year.

No Kill is a revolution. And behind every revolution is a declaration - a statement of grievances, and a listing of rights and principles that underscore our great hope for the future. We assert that a No Kill nation is within our reach - that the killing can and should be brought to an end. Join us in endorsing *The Declaration of the No Kill Movement in the United States*.

It is open to every individual, every group, and every agency that wants to bring about an end to the killing by implementing the programs and services that will establish a No Kill nation. Programs like ensuing public access to affordable spay/neuter services, allowing rescue groups to save animals on death row, and community wide TNR for feral cats. These are not radical concepts, but in the current sheltering world, one can be ostracized for daring to proclaim the simple truths that population control killing is not an act of kindness and that feral cats have a right to live.

Join us in speaking for those who can't. In the length of time it will take you to read the Declaration, nearly one hundred dogs and cats will be needlessly killed.

To read the Declaration, download or print a copy, and to add your name or group to its growing list of signatories, go to:

www.nokilldeclaration.org



Becky Robinson, National Director



Nathan J. Winograd, President



Alley Cat Allies and No Kill Solutions rely on contributions from our supporters. To learn more about how you can get involved and how to donate to Alley Cat Allies and No Kill Solutions, go to:

www.alleycat.org and www.nokillsolutions.com.

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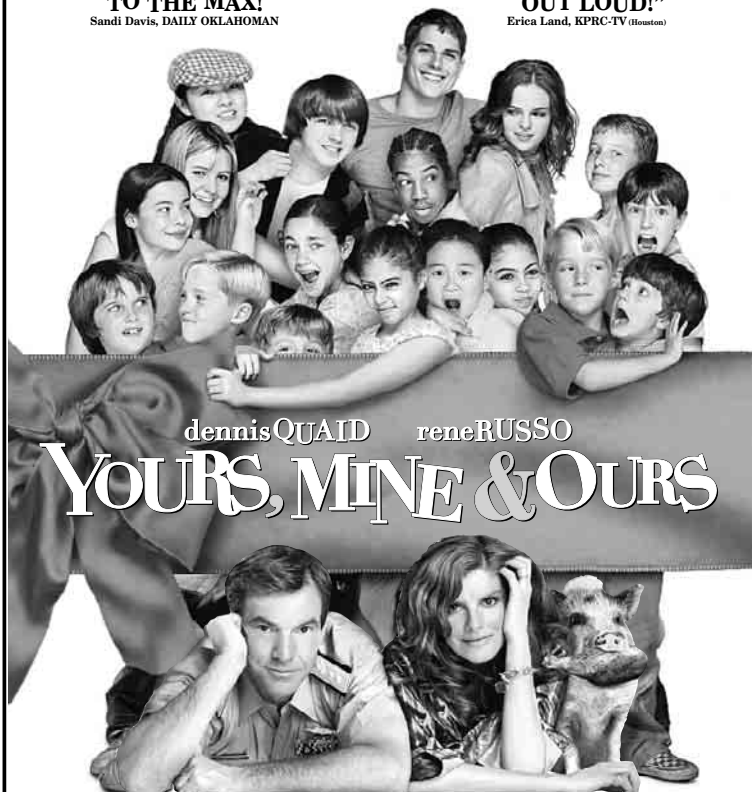
Greg Russell, WB-TV (Detroit)



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Erica Land, KPRC-TV (Houston)



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THE ARYAN COUPLE (PG-13, 123 minutes) This film, sort of a bad-Nazi acting Olympics for second-tier British actors, is so full of strutting psychos in black leather raincoats with scars on their faces, it comes to resemble a "Saturday Night Live" parody of a "Jeopardy for Nazis" game show more than anything. The whole thing is coarse and vulgar, as it hides its low fascinations behind a scrim of Holocaust piety until it becomes pure kitsch. (SH)

BEE SEASON (PG-13, 104 minutes) God's special connection to the world lies in pieces, and it's going to take innumerable acts of human goodwill to repair that broken vessel. This is the spiritual metaphor Saul Naumann (Richard Gere) lays out for his 11-year-old daughter, Eliza (Flora Cross) in this film. The film aims to evoke the power of religion, but the story turns on a disappointingly routine premise: The self-absorbed Saul is so busy pushing his daughter into the higher realm he doesn't realize his own family is falling apart. (DT)

CAPOTE (R, 98 minutes) It is a comical image: fey, mincing, piping little Truman Capote in his cashmere scarf tiptoeing around the bleak wheat-field burg of Holcomb, Kan., in the wake of some horrific murders about which he admits he doesn't really care. As Capote, Philip Seymour Hoffman makes you believe in the man: an artist's personality, ruthless and shrewd; a hysteric's delicate grasp of his emotions; a charmer whose wiles could wear down even the wary Kansas lawmen. (SH)

CHICKEN LITTLE (G, 78 minutes) Based on the old tale, and the image of ardent, mythological stupidity — the chicken who thought the sky was falling when an acorn fell on its head — this computer-animated gee-whizzer takes the story one more crank toward the literal. When the thing hits Chicken Little, it turns out it is a piece of the sky: The sky is falling. The animators are fabulous and full of mischief, weaving enough ironic amusements into the story for the longer of tooth. (SH)

DERAILED (R, 120 minutes) This film is fast, slick, stupid, violent fun and, despite the cynically high body count, without serious intention in this world. It is set in motion when Charlie (Clive Owen) has an affair with Lucinda (Jennifer Aniston), whom he has met on a train. They're



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THE ROAD OF LIFE: Schneider and Nicholson in Antonioni's sandy time capsule.



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trusting the night away when suddenly feral man enters, in the form of Philippe Laroche (Vincent Cassel). He pistol-whips Charlie, rapes Lucinda, takes money, credit cards, cell phones, dignity and any sense of the universe as rational. Then Philippe calls Charlie: He wants money. Eventually, the movie waltzes toward the absurd, the unbelievable, then veering back toward some sort of just-marginal believability. (SH)

DREAMER: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY (PG, 98 minutes) This horse-race drama, in which young Cale Crane (Dakota Fanning) nurses a wounded horse back to racing shape, harnesses the Rules of Cute and Fuzzy Horse Movies (temporary setbacks, underdog horses, stand-up-and-cheer moments) and rides them all the way to the Breeders' Cup. But will her formerly hobbled horse win, despite the terrible odds, when Cale has staked all her hopes and dreams into that special

horse (named Dreamer)? Writer-director John Gatins and his actors also fulfill the engaging-family requirement. (DT)

THE DYING GAUL (R, 101 minutes) This stylish, nervy, neo-noir thriller boasts a cast to die for — Campbell Scott, Patricia Clarkson, Peter Sarsgaard — in a minor-key chamber piece about a Hollywood producer (Scott), his screenwriter wife (Clarkson) and an aspiring young filmmaker (Sarsgaard) who comes into their lives and changes them forever. Although their lives are as sunny as a David Hockney painting, there's nearly always a serpent lying at the bottom of the sparkling pool. (AH)

FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13, 88 minutes) A small child disappears on a jumbo jet, with all sorts of compartments, bays and hide-oholes for a little kid to crawl into, and the movie gives viewers the impression of being on that plane as Jodie Foster — playing the girl's desperate mother, who may or may not be mentally unhinged — tries to lead her fellow passengers in a search. Striking just the right balance between claustrophobia and terrifying emptiness, director Robert Schwentke ratchets up the tension with good taste and quiet, unfussy skill. It all falls apart with the Big Reveal. (AH)

THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN (R, 111 minutes) Filthy, funny and sweet in equal measure, the feature directorial debut of writer-producer Judd Apatow is a Rob Schneider movie with the soul of a chick flick. That's not actually fair. While it's true that the comedy — revolving around the efforts of three friends (Paul Rudd, Romany Malco and Seth Rogen) to get their geeky nice-guy co-worker (Steve Carell) deflowered — has a lot of smutty

Continued on page 16

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STRIKE A POSE: "The Aryan Couple" try to pass as gentiles during WWII.

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Continued from page 14

humor, it's also pretty smart. In the end, the organ it's really all about exercising is the human heart. (MO)

GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R, 134 minutes) Born Curtis Jackson and reared in Queens, New York, the rapper who became 50 Cent never knew his father and lost his mother when he was only 8. Later he became a dealer, until deciding, in the mid-'90s, to pursue a career as a rapper. His first record was about to hit the streets in 2000 when Jackson was shot. Good stuff for a cinematic telling, but 50 Cent's fictionalized life story is shockingly inert. (AH)

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG-13, 93 minutes) George Clooney, who directed and co-wrote, retells the story of crusading journalist Ed Murrow, who stood up to braying political bully Joe McCarthy. The stylizations of '50s TV drama, including black-and-white cinematography, are terrific. Clooney casts himself as Murrow's producer, Fred W. Friendly, but hardly registers. Neither do any of the other CBS minions. Strathairn dominates the movie with furious intelligence, guts, will and nobility. (SH)

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13, 160 minutes) This is probably the most engaging Potter film of the series thus far. Our central character, Hogwarts student Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), is possibly more intimidated by girls than by dragons. Harry just got drafted, mysteriously, into the international Triwizard Tournament. As if that weren't enough, a large skull-and-snake apparition has appeared in the skies, a signal that the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has

returned. Readers of the J.K. Rowling novels may be disappointed that many details from the book have been altered or omitted. But as long as those readers appreciate large-scale action and smaller-scale interaction, they'll be happy. (DT)

THE ICE HARVEST (R, 88 minutes) It's Dec. 24 in Wichita, and the Midwestern city is slipping and shivering under the chilly blast of a sudden ice storm. The timing is disastrous for Charlie Arglist (John Cusack), an unscrupulous lawyer who was planning to skip town with the \$2 million he embezzled from mobster Bill Guerrard (Randy Quaid). Now, Charlie and his partner-in-crime, Vic (Billy Bob Thornton), are forced to sit things out, passing nervous time in the strip clubs, dank bars, restaurants and massage parlors that are their regular domain. What to do? This often macabre comedy allows us to doff such civilized traits as taste and decency. We're free to laugh at anything, and we do. (DT)

IN HER SHOES (PG-13, 131 minutes) In a pedestrian display of opposites, Rose (Toni Colette) has a law firm career, money and smarts but few men. Party girl Maggie (Cameron Diaz) lands the guys but always ends up drunk, penniless and miserable on Rose's sofa. When Maggie casually steals Rose's smooth-operator boss, Jim (Richard Burgi), sisterly tension becomes official breakup. The women branch off into self-discovery subplots. When the sisters meet again, it's not a harmonic convergence. It's just the end of 131 minutes. (DT)

IN THE MIX (PG-13, 95 minutes) Hip-hop star Usher makes an inauspicious screen debut playing a Brooklyn DJ named Darrell, whose dad used to work as a bartender for a Mafioso (Chazz Palminteri). Darrell is asked to spin records at a graduation party for the

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mobster's daughter, Dolly (Emmanuelle Chriqui), shots are fired, Darrell takes a bullet for the don and soon he is hired to be Dolly's bodyguard. Billed as sort of a hybrid action drama and romantic comedy, the film possesses no action, drama, romance or comedy. Still, Usher manages to exude a warmth and modest appeal. (AH)

JARHEAD (R, 120 minutes) Set in 1991 during the first Gulf War, this movie is a kind of lightweight variation on Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket," with its evocation of the institution known as the United States Marine Corps, its love of the profane poetry of sergeants and the bond felt by young men locked in a common ordeal. It's a portrait of Swofford and his band of gyrene brothers, wandering haplessly around, looking for action while trying to overcome the soldier's truest enemy, ennui. Jake Gyllenhaal plays "Swoff," and what's so good about the movie is Gyllenhaal's refusal to show off. (SH)

JUST FRIENDS (PG-13, 94 minutes) In high school, Chris (Ryan Reynolds) was perennially cast as "best friend," never "coolest guy." Thus he could not ever become romantic object to "school's coolest girl," Jamie (Amy Smart). She liked him just the way he was: fat, clumsy, funny, unthreatening. Ten years later, Chris, who has shed a thousand or so pounds, tries to face his past — Jamie, now a bartender. What Chris seems most interested in might be called a revenge tryst: Now cool, he thinks he can sweep her off her feet and get out of town having achieved a lifelong goal. Of course he falls in love again. The movie gets surprisingly better as it progresses. (SH)

KISS KISS, BANG BANG (R, 103 minutes) This is the first movie since 1994's "Pulp Fiction" not just to understand movie violence as a pop cultural form but to play it like a virtuoso violinist. This manic tribute to film noir stars a wackily inspired Robert Downey Jr. as two-bit burglar Harry Lockhart, whose bizarre luck takes him from a botched East Village robbery into the fear-and-loathing underbelly of Hollywood, where he's astounded to find himself a contender for an acting role. This is just the beginning of worse and better to come. You get a lot of smart bang-bang for your buck. (DT)

MACHUCA (unrated, 121 minutes) Pedro Machuca is a 13-year-old boy living in the slums of Santiago, Chile, in 1973 when he is chosen to attend a tony private boys' school, a result of the liberalized policies of the country's president, Salvador



FAMILY TIME: The premise of "Yours, Mine and Ours," starring Rene Russo, left, and Dennis Quaid, right, warms the hearts of people looking for uncomplicated entertainment: He has lots of kids, she has lots of kids, they all have to learn to get along.



BEHIND EVERY LEGENDARY MAN ...: Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon play singing, battling married stars the Carter-Cashes in "Walk the Line."

Sunday in The Washington Post



Household Magic: The simple charm and wisdom of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" have endured for 40 years. TV Week marks this special anniversary. | *TV Week*

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Allende. While at St. Patrick's, Pedro (Ariel Mateluna) befriends one of the rich kids, a plump, freckle-faced bookworm named Gonzalo Infante (Matias Quer). Against the backdrop of the impending military coup led by Augusto Pinochet, the two boys pursue an unlikely friendship that opens both their eyes. The two lead performances are flawless, as is Aline Kuppenheim's portrayal of Gonzalo's beautiful, feckless mother and Manuela Martelli as Pedro's temperamental cousin, on whom Gonzalo develops a crush. (AH)

PARADISE NOW (Unrated, 94 minutes) This movie takes you behind the terrible curtain of terrorism to find, not too surprisingly, that human beings live there. Palestinian director Hany Abu-Assad focuses on the humanity of two likable West Bank auto mechanics, Said (Kais Nashif) and Khaled (Ali Suliman), who are informed, with only 24 hours' notice, that God has chosen them to obliterate themselves and as many bystanders as they can take with them. The audience is lured into discomforting empathy for Said and Khaled, especially when things start going horribly awry. This movie may not change anyone's ideology, but it should convince some that people are pretty much the same on either side of the holy fence. (DT)

THE PASSENGER (PG-13, 119 minutes) In this 1975 film directed by Michelangelo Antonioni, which is being re-released in the version Antonioni liked best, a lithe, just-balding Jack Nicholson plays David Locke, a television journalist covering a civil conflict in an unnamed African country. But his character is also a passenger — a passive, disaffected accomplice in his own life. This film is about the psyche of one man and an erotically charged, if verbally challenged, relationship with a beautiful woman. The latter is portrayed here by Maria Schneider, whom Antonioni revealingly calls "the Girl." That says it all about a film that, while pictorially stunning, looks today like a museum piece of quintessentially male heroic filmmaking. (AH)

PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG, 128 minutes) This version of Jane Austen's fabled story, in which Lizzie Bennet and Mr. Darcy begin as fiery opponents and end up as married lovers, is not quite the taming of a shrew, because in Austen's worldview, leading ladies of beauty and wit weren't shrews and never had to be tamed, but merely loved and respected, and good things would follow. That's the main trajectory of this film, starring Keira Knightley as Elizabeth and Matthew MacFadyen as the initially dour, snotty Mr. Darcy. Knightley takes

Continued on page 18

Weekend Entertainment

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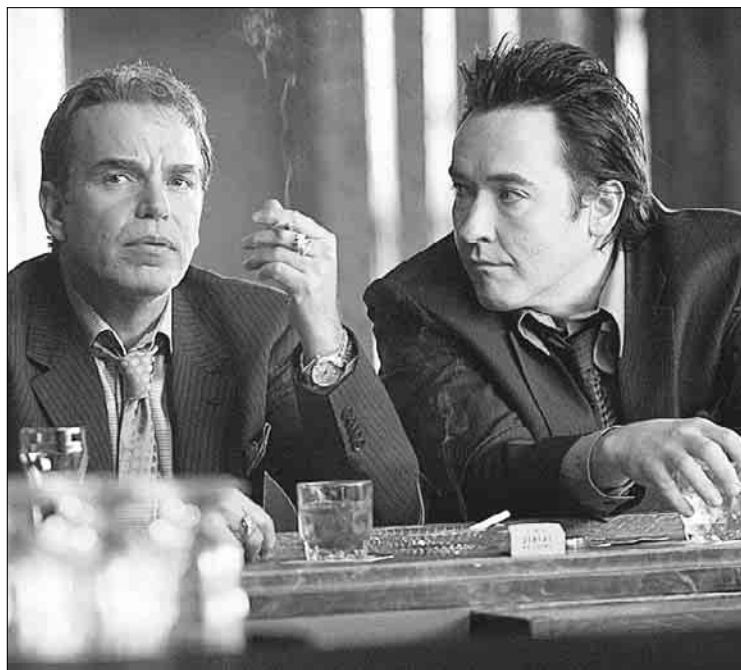
Continued from page 17

control of a scene, radiating power and personality unto the rafters. It's a great performance. (SH)

RENT (PG-13, 135 minutes) Musicals are not for the literal-minded, and that probably should have ruled out Chris Columbus as the man to bring Broadway's long-running hit to the screen. He labors mightily to make the movie look and feel like something that genuinely bubbled up from the mean streets of Alphabet City at the height of AIDS angst. But the thing that made the stage version a hit and kept it running was Jonathan Larson's arresting score. Columbus preserves it, but he doesn't work with it. He just stands in slack-jawed awe and rolls camera. (NELSON PRESSLEY)

SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC (R, 72 minutes) When it comes to Sarah Silverman, the best thing to do is simply sit back and listen. The fact that she shouldn't be saying those things and you shouldn't be laughing at them makes it even more deliciously painful. There are song parodies, trips backstage, but it's all just filler to stretch 40 golden minutes of inspired stand-up to 72 minutes. Silverman radiates the self-confidence of clueless beauty, with an emphasis on self-absorption, moral superiority based on the freakish genetic gift of beauty, amused intolerance for, ick, the many lesser others, and the quiet confidence that only really white, straight teeth can give. You sit there thinking, good lord, does she mean it? She can't mean it! Can she say that? Can we laugh? (SH)

SAW II (R, 91 minutes) We have eight folks trapped inside a grim house, all raging at one another as if this is some reality TV



IN THE MONEY: Thornton and Cusack are naughty charmers in "The Ice Harvest."

FOCUS FEATURES

show gone criminally insane. Fans of the first "Saw" can look forward to involuntary incineration, wrist and throat slashing, bullets through brains and the bashing of someone's head with a nail-festooned club. (PT)

SHOPGIRL (R, 105 minutes) Deft but slight, the new Steve Martin film is a case of precise observation of nothing. The movie watches listlessly as old rich guy Ray Porter (Martin) begins a pointless, clearly doomed affair with shopgirl Mirabelle Buttersfield (Claire Danes), who sells gloves at Saks in Beverly Hills. Slight age diff: He's fiftysomething, she's twentysomething. It's a film concerned with cool surfaces, with getting things right, particularly clothes and fashion accoutrements. (SH)

THE SQUID AND THE WHALE (R, 81 minutes) Set in Brooklyn in 1986, this movie is piercing and forthright. When Bernard

Continued on page 23

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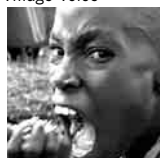
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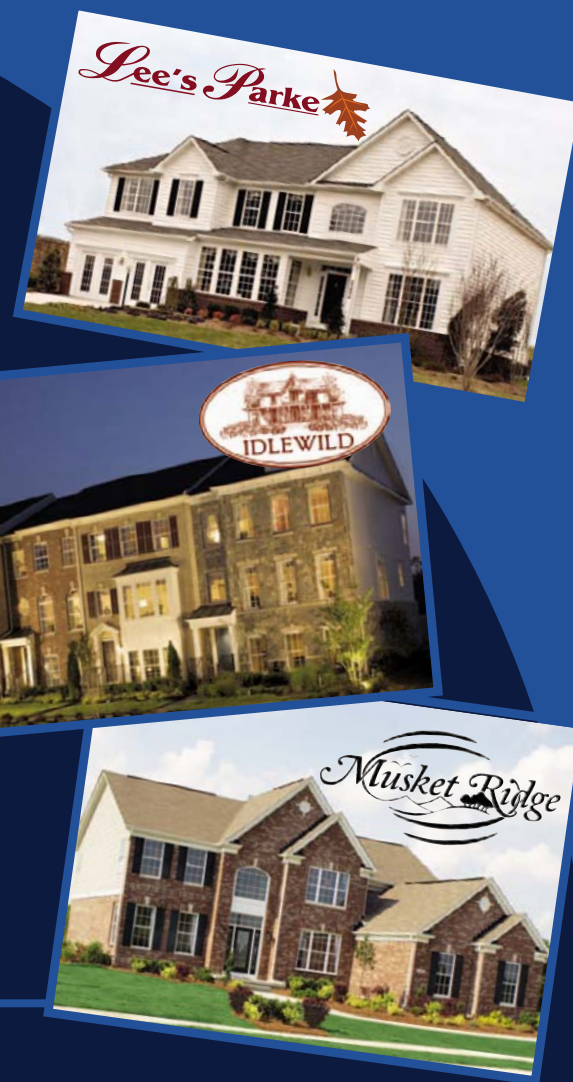
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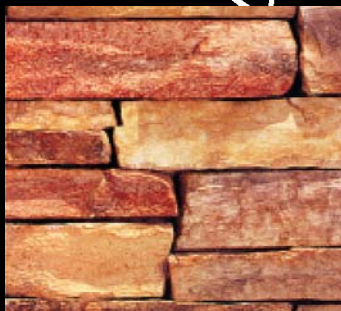


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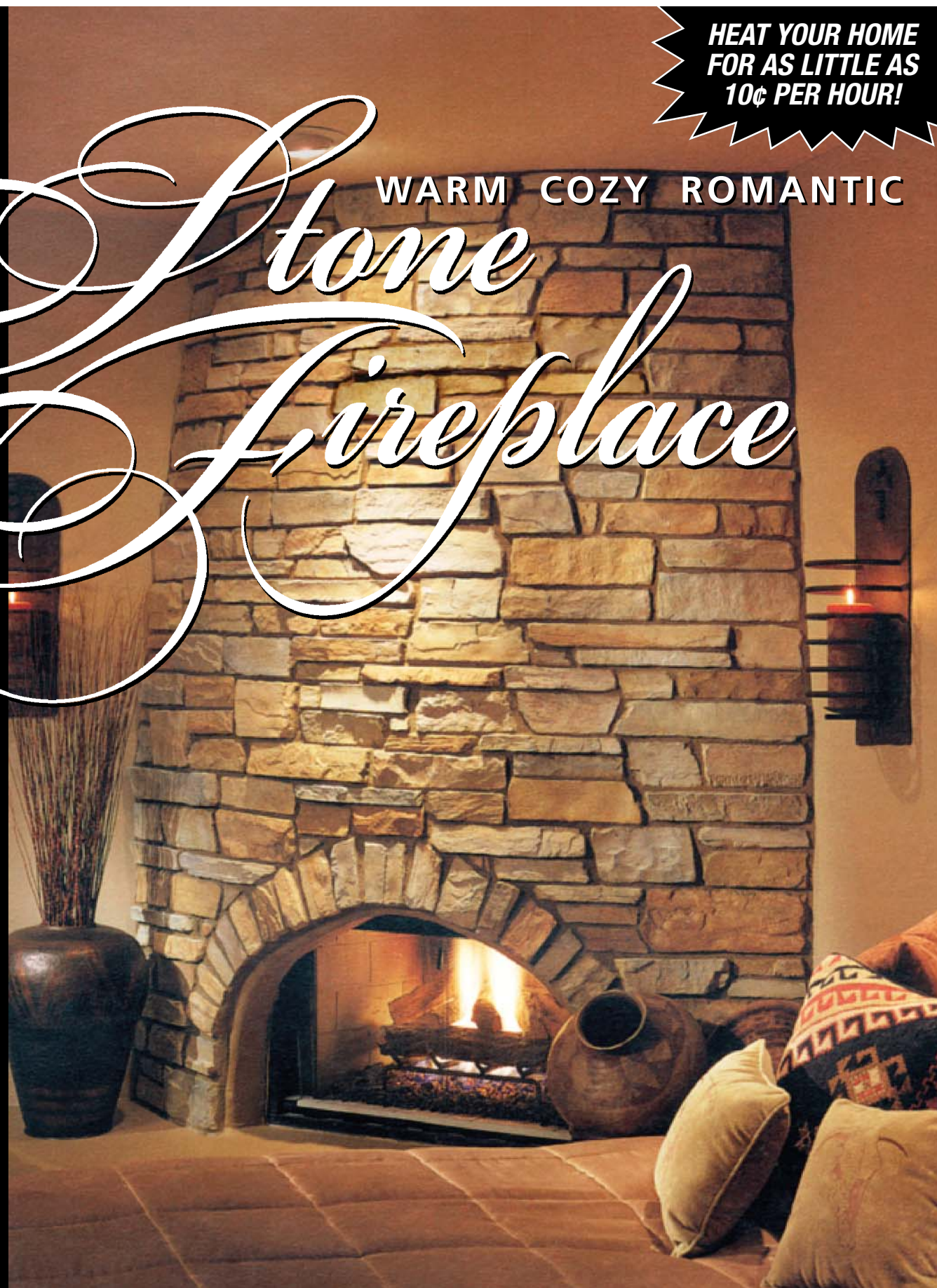
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Now Playing

Continued from page 18

(Jeff Daniels) and Joan (Laura Linney) Berkman inform their children, 16-year-old Walt (Jesse Eisenberg) and 12-year-old Frank (Owen Kline), they're getting a divorce, it's the beginning of an emotional whirlwind for four very different people. The movie is so brutally honest at times, you can almost sense the real Baumbachs squirming. But this story doesn't just belong to them; this richly observed, sometimes heartbreaking movie has become ours, too. (DT)

USHPIZIN (PG, 90 minutes) Ushpizin is Hebrew for "visitors" — friends and strangers who may need shelter and sustenance during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot. That weeklong autumn festival is the setting for this comic drama about an Orthodox rabbi named Moshe (Shuli Rand) who lives with his wife, Malli (Michal Bat-Sheva Rand), in Jerusalem. The couple is just scraping by while they pray for a son. By twists of fate and faith, their prayers are answered

— sort of — in the form of two unexpected visitors. (AH)

WALK THE LINE (PG-13, 136 minutes) This movie gets off to a promising start, sure to raise goose bumps, at the gates of Folsom Prison in 1968. The camera makes its way slowly into the jail, and finally, after an excruciating, exhilarating eternity, we see Johnny Cash — played, in an uncanny performance, by Joaquin Phoenix — as he drinks a glass of water and contemplates a buzz saw. We're hooked, and he hasn't sung a note. Unfortunately, for all its good music and admirable vocal impersonations, the movie slides — very, very slowly — downhill from there. (AH)

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (G, 85 minutes) Directed by animators Nick Park and Steve Box, the feature film debut of Wallace and Gromit opens with the dotty English inventor and his quietly superior dog working at yet another ingenious business called Anti-Pesto, which humanely removes four-legged creatures from their town's vegetable gardens. Things are just swell until one of Wallace's schemes goes awry, and the gardens are soon being



HIGH SCHOOL STILL SUCKS: The fat, funny kid and the cool girl are "Just Friends."

vandalized by the King Kong of rabbits. Gromit, who might be the most expressive silent movie star since Buster Keaton, is pure magic. (AH)

WEDDING CRASHERS (R, 119 minutes) Jeremy (Vince Vaughn) and John (Owen Wilson) are scoundrels who crash weddings so they can score with women, in this often-funny caper. But when they attend a big-time Washington wedding

party, things change: They each fall for one of the host's daughters (Isla Fisher and Rachel McAdams). Vaughn is definitely the best man in this wedding comedy. (DT)

YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG, 88 minutes) Dennis Quaid plays Frank Beardsley, a widower and loving father of eight, who meets and falls in love with former sweetheart Helen North (Rene Russo), now a

widow with 10 children. Parenting systems collide: Frank must tolerate a family that regularly employs the group hug; Helen has to contend with inspection parades. Of course, the children learn to collaborate and find they're really not so unhappy after all. The storyline is so familiar, the audience can practically call out scenes ahead of time. (DT)

ZATHURA (PG, 102 minutes) This movie introduces us to 6-year-old Danny (Jonah Bobo) and 10-year-old Walter (Josh Hutcherson). One day when his father is at work, Danny discovers Zathura, an old-fashioned board game with a windup key, a "Go" button and a miniature spaceship that whirs along the game board. That little spaceship springs to life and — ding! — up pops a card with a message: "Meteor Shower — Take Evasive Action." The movie has an almost antique charm which recalls 1950s sci-fi movies with aliens in silver suits. (DT)



REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

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***IN THE MIX (PG-13)**
11:15, 1:45, 5:00, 8:00, 10:40
***YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG)**
11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45
***HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13)**
11:00, 11:45, 12:30, 2:30, 3:15, 4:00
6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 10:15, 10:50
WALK THE LINE (PG-13)
12:25, 1:20, 3:45, 4:30,
6:55, 7:40, 10:00, 10:45
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
ZATHURA (PG)
12:45, 3:10, 6:40, 9:40
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1:40, 4:25, 7:25, 9:35
ICE HARVEST (R)
2:00, 4:15, 7:30, 9:40
THE SQUID AND THE WHALE (R)
2:10, 4:45, 7:50, 9:55
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG)
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG)
1:45, 4:00, 7:20, 9:30
SHOPGIRL (R)
2:05, 4:40, 7:45, 10:05

LAUREL CINEMA 6

LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1
301-604-2885

SHOWS BEFORE 6PM \$5.00
AEON FLUX (PG-13) 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG)
5:20, 7:20, 9:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) 4:30, 7:30
WALK THE LINE (PG-13)
4:15, 7:00, 9:30
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 5:10, 7:15

MARLOW 6 THEATRES

3899 Branch Avenue
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Weekdays 1st show 2:45, Last show 7:45
Coming Soon! **KING KONG (PG-13)**
AEON FLUX (PG-13)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R)
11:30, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:10
CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
11:50, 1:35, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00
RENT (PG-13) 12:00, 2:45
SAW II (R) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
IN THE MIX (PG-13)
11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13)
Special Engagement/No Coupons or Passes
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00
ZATHURA (PG) 12:45, 3:00
CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
1:00, 3:10, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15
PRIZE WINNER OF DEFIANCE, OHIO (PG)
5:10, 7:25, 9:35

P&G OLD GREENBELT

301-474-9744
At intersection of Crescent & Southway

PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG)
(4:45 @ \$5.00) 7:30, 9:55
NO FREQUENT MOVIE GOERS COUPONS OR PASSES

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SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC (R)

12:20, 2:50, 4:30, 7:50, 9:30
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG)
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05
BEE SEASON (PG-13) 4:40
WALK THE LINE (PG-13)
12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 9:40
THE SQUID & THE WHALE (R)
12:40, 2:45, 7:20, 9:15
CAPOTE (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10
GOOD NIGHT, GOOD LUCK (PG)
12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 8:00, 9:55

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Alexandria, Va. 703-822-4956

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***SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/NO PASSES**
***AEON FLUX (PG-13)**
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:20
***YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG)**
11:55, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:30
***RENT (PG-13)**
12:50, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
***JUST FRIENDS (PG-13)**
12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:45, 10:05
***IN THE MIX (PG-13)**
12:05, 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 10:15
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13)
11:45, 12:30, 1:20, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20
5:00, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:55
DERAILED (R)
1:00, 4:05, 6:40, 9:40
CHICKEN LITTLE (G)
12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 6:55, 9:10
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG)
12:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50
SHOPGIRL (R)
11:50, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
JARHEAD (R)
12:40, 3:45, 7:05, 10:00
WALK THE LINE (PG-13)
12:00, 1:10, 3:00, 4:10
6:15, 7:10, 9:20, 9:55

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MovieFone (301 or 202) 333-3456 #781

BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM & 7

PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG)
11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG)
12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:25
THE SQUID AND THE WHALE (R)
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
SARAH SILVERMAN: JESUS IS MAGIC (NR)
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
THE PASSANGER (PG-13)
11:55, 2:45, 5:40, 8:30
THE DYING GAUL (R)
11:50, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50
DARWIN'S NIGHTMARE (NR)
11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
SHOPGIRL (R)
11:45, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

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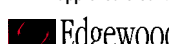
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TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 11:10, 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 7:20, 8:20, 10:10, 11:10
IN THE MIX (PG13) ✓ 11:50, 2:30, 5:25, 8:15, 10:45
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) ✓ 11:35, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
11:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:15, 11:15
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13) 2:00, 5:45, 9:30
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 12:15, 1:15, 3:30, 4:25, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30, 11:30
DERAILED (R) 11:25, 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:25
ZATHURA (PG) 11:15, 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 11:20, 12:20, 1:45, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20
JARHEAD (R) 11:05, 1:50, 4:55, 8:05, 11:00
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG) 4:10
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 7:05, 9:40

HOFFMANN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 12:15, 1:10, 2:40, 3:45, 5:15, 6:00, 7:45, 8:45, 10:15, 11:15, 12:30
FIRST DESCENT (PG13) 12:50, 3:40, 6:35, 9:10, 11:50
THE ICE HARVEST (R) ✓ 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
IN THE MIX (PG13) ✓ 1:25, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) ✓ 1:55, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15
RENT (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 1:15, 3:05, 4:15, 6:15, 7:25, 9:25, 10:25
RENT (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:25
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) ✓ 12:40, 1:40, 2:55, 4:05, 5:10, 6:25, 7:40, 9:05, 10:05, 11:20
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
12:00, 1:00, 1:50, 2:45, 3:40, 4:30, 5:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:00, 9:50, 11:30, 12:30
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 2:05, 5:20, 7:30, 8:30, 10:35, 11:45
DERAILED (R) 1:05, 3:55, 6:55, 9:40, 12:20
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) 12:20, 3:15, 6:20, 9:30
ZATHURA (PG) 1:20, 4:10, 6:40
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 9:15 PM, 12:05 AM
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 1:15, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
JARHEAD (R) 12:30, 3:35, 6:30, 9:35, 12:25
SAW II (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:05, 9:35, 11:55
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00

UNION STATION 9

Located at Union Station
703-998-4AMC

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
IN THE MIX (PG13) ✓ 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) ✓ 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) ✓ 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:15, 10:25
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
1:00, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 8:00, 9:15
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 1:00, 3:10, 5:15, 7:30, 9:30

COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
410-423-0520

AEON FLUX (PG13) 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50, 12:10
THE ICE HARVEST (R) 1:05, 3:30, 5:45, 8:20, 10:35
IN THE MIX (PG13) 12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 8:00, 10:20
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 8:05, 10:40
RENT (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:30
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 11:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
12:10, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 10:55
DERAILED (R) 1:50, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10, 12:15
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
ZATHURA (PG) 12:05, 2:40, 5:10
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20
JARHEAD (R) 7:55, 10:45

SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 1:15, 4:45, 8:00, 10:30
THE ICE HARVEST (R) ✓ 7:20, 9:50
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 4:45, 7:45, 10:15
RENT (PG13) ✓ 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) ✓ 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
12:00, 12:45, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:20
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
DERAILED (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30
ZATHURA (PG) 1:30, 4:20
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:40

RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

AEON FLUX (PG13) 5:40, 8:10, 10:30
THE ICE HARVEST (R) 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
IN THE MIX (PG13) 5:20, 8:00, 10:20
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) 5:50, 8:20, 10:40
RENT (PG13) 4:30, 7:50, 10:45
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) 5:30, 8:10, 10:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
4:20, 7:30, 10:40
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 5:10, 8:00, 10:45
DERAILED (R) 5:00, 7:50, 10:10
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 4:40, 7:40, 10:20
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6

Country Club Mall on Voecke Rd near Route 68.
703-998-4AMC

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 4:30, 7:30, 9:45
THE ICE HARVEST (R) ✓ 4:40, 7:40, 9:55
RENT (PG13) ✓ 4:10, 7:10, 10:05
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) ✓ 4:50, 8:00, 10:15
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
ZATHURA (PG) 4:20
JARHEAD (R) 7:20, 10:05

POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

AEON FLUX (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 7:50, 10:20
FIRST DESCENT (PG13) ✓ 12:35, 3:15, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45
THE ICE HARVEST (R) ✓ 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:45
IN THE MIX (PG13) ✓ 2:00, 4:30, 8:10, 10:45
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) ✓ 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55
RENT (PG13) ✓ 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 8:00, 10:30, 11:00
RENT (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:30
YOURS, MINE & OURS (PG) ✓ 12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG13)
12:10, 12:40, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 6:15, 6:45, 7:20, 9:30, 10:00, 10:40
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 12:05, 1:30, 3:20, 4:35, 6:30, 7:40, 9:40, 10:50
DERAILED (R) 12:25, 2:55, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) ✓ 12:50, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55
ZATHURA (PG) 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 4:15, 10:10
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) 1:40, 4:45, 7:00, 9:00
JARHEAD (R) 1:20, 7:10
SAW II (R) 10:05 PM

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★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (2:00 3:00 4:20 5:00)6:40 7:00 8:40 9:35
★ THE ICE HARVEST (R) (2:40 4:40)7:10 9:40
★ RENT (PG-13) (2:25 3:30 5:15)6:20 8:30 9:30
PRIME (PG-13) Rear Window Captioning (3:20)9:20
SHOPGIRL (R) (2:30 4:50)7:20 9:50
CAPOTE (R) (3:50)6:50 9:10
THE CONSTANT GARDENER (R) Rear Window Captioning 6:30

Cineplex Odeon
DUPONT CIRCLE 5
1350 19th Street 202-972-9955

BEE SEASON (PG-13) (2:05 4:30)7:10 9:50
THE ARYAN COUPLE (PG-13) (2:10 4:50)7:30 10:00
PARADISE NOW (PG-13) (2:40 5:00)7:15 9:40
CAPOTE (R) (2:00 3:00 4:40 5:40)7:20 8:30 9:55

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★ AEON FLUX (PG-13) (1:10 3:40)6:10 8:40 11:10
★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (12:55 3:25 5:55)8:25 10:55
★ THE ICE HARVEST (R) (2:05 4:25)6:35 8:45 11:05
★ RENT (PG-13) (1:05 4:05)7:05 10:05
★ IN THE MIX (PG-13) (2:00 5:40)6:30 8:00 9:00 10:40 11:30
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) (1:50 5:20)
Rear Window Captioning (12:50 4:20)7:50 11:20
ZATHURA (PG) (1:20 3:50)
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) (1:00 4:00)7:00 8:30 10:00 11:00
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) (1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30 5:30)7:30 9:30
JARHEAD (R) 6:20 9:20
SAW II (R) (1:40 4:10)6:40 9:10 11:40

Cineplex Odeon
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Cineplex Odeon
WISCONSIN AVE. CINEMAS
4000 Wisconsin Avenue N.W. 202-244-0882

★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (2:10 4:25)6:50 9:10
★ THE ICE HARVEST (R) (2:20 4:40)7:10 9:35
ZATHURA (PG) (1:50 4:10)
DERAILED (R) (1:30 4:00)6:45 9:20
JARHEAD (R) 6:50 9:30
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) (2:00 4:30)7:00 9:40
WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT (G) (1:50 4:20)6:40 9:00

Loews
WHITE FLINT 5
North Bethesda 310-423-1014

★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (2:10 4:20)6:35 9:15
★ RENT (PG-13) (2:45)6:00 9:00
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) (2:00)6:00 9:10
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) (2:40)6:10 9:15
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) (2:05 4:15)6:30 9:00

Cineplex Odeon
SHIRLINGTON 7
2772 South Randolph 703-671-0978

BEE SEASON (PG-13) (1:30)
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) (12:30 1:20 3:10 4:00)6:10 7:00 9:00 9:40
THE SQUID AND THE WHALE (R) (12:40 2:50 4:50)6:50 9:20
PRIME (PG-13) (1:00 3:20 5:40)7:50 10:00
SHOPGIRL (R) (4:10)7:30 9:50
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) (12:50 3:00 5:10)7:20 9:30
CAPOTE (R) (1:10 3:40)6:30 9:10

Loews
GEORGETOWN
3111 K Street, N.W. 202-346-6033

★ AEON FLUX (PG-13) (12:30 2:40 4:50)7:10 9:30 11:40
★ FIRST DESCENT (PG-13) (1:50 4:20)7:50 10:20
★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (2:10 4:30)6:50 9:00 11:20
★ THE ICE HARVEST (R) (12:50 3:00 5:10)7:20 9:50 12:10
★ RENT (PG-13) (12:10 3:10 4:40)6:10 9:10 10:40 12:15
★ JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) (11:40 2:50 5:30)8:40 11:00
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) (1:30 5:00)8:30 12:00
Rear Window Captioning (12:00 3:30)7:00 10:30
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) (12:20 1:40 3:20)6:20 7:40 9:20 12:20
PRIDE & PREJUDICE (PG) (12:40 3:40)6:40 9:40
DERAILED (R) (11:50 2:20 5:50)8:20 10:50
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) (1:10 3:50)6:30 8:50
JARHEAD (R) (4:10)10:00
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) (1:20)7:30

Loews
WHEATON PLAZA 11
Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center,
Viers Mill Rd. Btwn. Georgia & University 601-949-0202

★ AEON FLUX (PG-13) (4:20)7:10 9:40
★ YOURS, MINE AND OURS (PG) (3:00 5:10)7:30 9:35
★ RENT (PG-13) Rear Window Captioning (4:00)6:50 10:00
★ JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) (3:30 5:40)8:00 10:10
★ IN THE MIX (PG-13) (5:00)7:20 9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) (3:10)6:00 7:00 9:30
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) (3:20)6:20 9:10
ZATHURA (PG) (3:50)
DERAILED (R) (3:15 5:30)7:50 10:20
GET RICH OR DIE TRYIN' (R) 6:30 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) (4:30)7:30 9:45
SAW II (R) 10:15

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701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

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Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1200 225 455) 725 950 1215
RENT (PG-13) DIG (120 340 425) 645 730 955 1030
OC: RENT (PG-13) DIG (1235)
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1220 245 510) 735 1000 1220
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (1245 300 520) 745 1010 1225
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1240 250 505) 715 930 1150
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1205 235 450) 710 925 1135
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1230 325 405) 700 740 1025 1115
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1225 110 335 415) 640 720 945 1020
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (150 435) 705 935 1210
JARHEAD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (400) 655 940
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1215 230 440) 705 915 1125

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
Glebe Rd, Arlington 800-FANDANGO 377#

Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1215 100 320 325 505 555) 720 810 950 1030
RENT (PG-13) DIG (1235 120 340 420) 715 815 1025
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1220 245) 735 1015
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1230 110 330 410) 705 740 1000
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (105 225 435 525) 730 820 1020
JARHEAD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 350) 650 945
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (125 335 545) 755 1010
CAPOTE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1255 345) 645 935

BOWIE STADIUM 14
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (105 405) 730 1000 1230
RENT (PG-13) DIG (100 405) 715 1025
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (140 410) 720 950 1220
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1200 225 455) 745 1020
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (205 515) 750 1015 1240
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (150 445) 725 1010 1235
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 135 325 510) 700 800 845 1035 1135
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1220 400) 725 1035
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (115 415) 710 955 1235
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (320 440) 740 1025 1115
GET RICH OR DIE TRYING (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (200 450) 735 1030
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1155 1255 215 310 435 525) 810 1025
JARHEAD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 705 1005

BETHESDA 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1205 405) 730 1000
RENT (PG-13) DIG (1155 330) 715 1010
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (1225 355) 650 930
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1235 335) 710 940
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1215 340) 725 1030
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1210 325 345) 700 720 800 1035
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 350) 655 1005
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (1220 415)
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1230 410) 645 920

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1210 240 500) 720 940 1200
RENT (PG-13) DIG (130 430) 655 735 955 1035
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (1215 235 455) 715 935 1155
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 305 525) 745 1020
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1220 245 510) 750 1030
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1200 230 450) 710 930 1145
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1240 110 340 420) 650 730 1000 1040
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1230 1250 325 405 425) 700 740 800 1035 1115 1135
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (155 440) 725 1010
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (140 415)
GET RICH OR DIE TRYING (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (215 520) 810 1100
JARHEAD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (135) 705
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1205 225 445) 705 920
SAW II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (435) 1005

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1220 150 250 430 530) 720 820 940
FIRST DESCENT (PG-13) DIG (200 440) 745 1020
RENT (PG-13) DIG (230 540) 710 850 1010
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (120 350) 645 920
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 300 550) 800 1015
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1250 310 550) 810 1030
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (100 145 330 415) 630 715 900 945
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (110 210 420 520) 730 830 1030
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1200 1230 130 240 320 400 500) 620 700 740 840 950 1025
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (1240 340) 640 1000
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (220 510) 750 1025
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (140 410)
CHICKEN LITTLE 3D - DIGITAL PROJECTION (G) DIG (1210 245 450) 705 930
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (115 345) 625 900

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Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1130 230 500) 730 1000 1230
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1145 215 445) 715 950 1220
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) (1120 225 450) 735 955 1225
RENT (PG-13) DIG (1125 340) 740 1045
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1135 220 455) 750 1010 1235
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1140 210 435) 705 930 1205
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1110 320) 725 1030
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1210 1230 325 345 405) 700 720 745 1035 1055 1115
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (1115 315) 710 1015
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (140) 655 935 1215
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (1105 420)
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1100 105 310 515) 755 1005

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1115 350 345 415) 700 730 945 1015
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (130 330 430) 645 745 950
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (125 440) 740 1020
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (140 420) 710 955
SAW II (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (110 355) 705 940
LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG) DIG (100 400) 655 1000
GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG) DIG (130 405) 720 1010

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1210 240 500) 720 950 1210
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1230 100 325 405 440) 700 740 800 1020 1105 1130
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1240 250 500) 715 940
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (150 430) 730 1000 1220
RENT (PG-13) DIG (110 410) 720 1030
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (130 430) 710 945 1215
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (120 400) 730 950 1230
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (115 415) 715 1015
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (120 420) 710 1010
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (1215 300) 650 930
JARHEAD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 700 1000
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1200 100 230 300 445 515) 750 1010

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14
9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1230 245 500) 730 950
OC: RENT (PG-13) DIG (1245)
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (415) 645 930
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (1230 300 550) 715 1000
RENT (PG-13) DIG (400) 720 1030
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (200 515) 815 1025
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1215 245 515) 730 950
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1200 100 330 420 830 1025
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1200 100 330 430 530) 700 800 900
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (115) 745
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (1245 400) 700 1000
ZATHURA (PG) DIG (115)
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1215 230 500) 800 1010
KISS KISS BANG BANG (R) - ID REQ'D DIG 1030
GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG) DIG (445) 1015

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

Adv. Tix on Sale **CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** (PG) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **KING KONG** (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **NO PAIN NO GAIN** (R) - ID REQ'D ★
Adv. Tix on Sale **WEDDING CRASHERS UNCORKED** - NCM
EVENT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
AEON FLUX (PG-13) DIG (1140 210 435) 730 1000
IN THE MIX (PG-13) DIG (1135 200 420) 735 1005
JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) DIG (1125 150 415) 800 1015
RENT (PG-13) DIG (1250 400) 705 1010
THE ICE HARVEST (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1155 215 430) 805 1030
YOUR MINE & OURS (PG) DIG (1205 230 445) 755 1020
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1235 335) 645 725 950 1030
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13) DIG (1150 1210 1230 325 345 405) 700 720 745 1025 1045
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (PG) DIG (1145 250) 640 940
DERAILED (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1240 320) 650 930
CHICKEN LITTLE (G) DIG (1130 1220 140 240 355 450) 710 920

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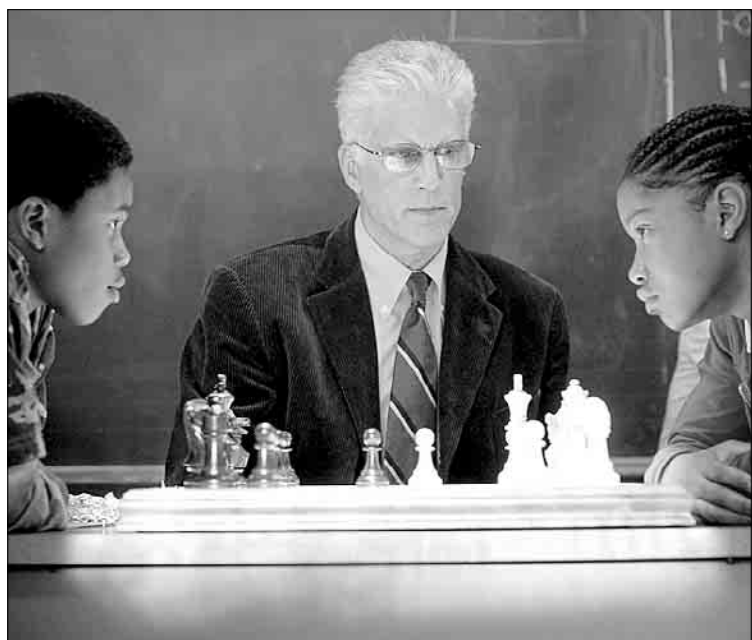
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A Genuine Knights' Tale

**An actor rediscovers
a passion for chess
— and passes it on**

SPORTSMANSHIP | “Knights of the South Bronx,” an A&E movie premiering Dec. 6, is based on a true-life tale about how a teacher uses chess to inspire inner-city kids.

Its star, Ted Danson, found himself inspired as well. His love of the game, long dormant, was rekindled, he said, and his skills enhanced.

Even more so, he was moved greatly by the real tale of the film's inspiration, chess expert David MacEnulty, who taught the intricate board game to Bronx elementary school children, nurturing them to success in national competitions.

Executive producer Diane Nabatoff approached Danson by sending him a video of a TV news piece about MacEnult. Danson praised MacEnulty as a “true hero ... an amazing man, so passionate, so dedicated.”

The A&E movie does take some dramatic license with MacEnulty's story, but he said what really matters is that the film is true in the way it depicts the lessons the kids

learned through chess.

“You don’t get ahead by getting it over on people. You get ahead by being better than they are at something, and the only way you are going to do that is if you work harder than the other people. And that’s the message of the movie,” MacEnulty said.

On the film's Toronto location, Danson watched MacEnulty, who has written several chess books and created software programs for the U.S. Chess Federation, teaching the young actors the basics of the game.

“There were six or so kids from 5- to 10- or 11-years-old who were just nonstop, all over him, all over the chess pieces, squabbling. I was horrified, ‘Oh, my god, is this what I’m going to be doing every day?’ But what David said to me, and what I saw, was 60, 70 percent of his energy was to capture their attention and the rest was put into the chess teaching.”

Danson went on to apply that technique himself in working with his young co-stars. "As soon as you offer them something that is really interesting and when the communication is, 'You matter, I care about you, you can do this,' you can keep them focused." BRIDGET BYRNE (AP)

PBS Drifts Right

NETWORKS | A PBS public affairs program featuring politically conservative viewpoints is moving to Fox News after the show struggled to get airtime on local public television stations, according to its producers.

The "Journal Editorial Report," a half-hour show hosted by Wall Street Journal Editorial Page Editor Paul Gigot and featuring members of the newspaper's editorial board, will air for the last time on PBS on Friday. In January, the program will begin running on the cable news channel on Saturdays, in a time slot to be determined, Fox officials said.



Wednesday.

"The Journal decided not to pursue a third season on PBS because ... the refusal of many of the top PBS TV stations to carry the program didn't justify the effort," said Robert Christie, a spokesman for Dow Jones, the Journal's parent company.

PBS officials disputed that, saying the program was carried on an average of 229 stations during any given week, reaching 83 percent of U.S. households. Officials expressed regret that the Journal's editorial board was taking its program elsewhere. MATEA GOLD (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

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Television



BUTLER IN THE BASEMENT: Think of the new generation of digital recording device Tivo as a large, unportable Blackberry. The TV-taper has upped its tech capacity — now Tivo can order your movie tickets and check weather and traffic.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

AS INEVITABLE AS NEEDLE-DROP ABC plays it safe with **SANTA CLAUS IS COMIN' TO TOWN** (Fri., 8 p.m., ABC), a cartoon evergreen animated by the voice of Fred Astaire.

WHY'S HE SO HAPPY, ANYWAY? Add **THE HAPPY ELF** (Fri., 8 p.m., NBC) to the discard pile of mistletoe misfires. It's an awkward collection of disjointed concepts glued together by an uninspired script apparently written by committee.

THIS PLACE IS A ZOO

For truly inspired animation, don't miss **CREATURE COMFORTS** (Fri., 11 p.m., BBC America). A brilliant collection of film shorts from the creators of "Wallace & Gromit," "Comforts" consists of brief documentary-style interviews with zoo creatures. Vain zebras, self-effacing hye-

nas, world-weary she-pigs and even a gossip group of cliff-clinging clams discuss romantic attraction, aging, neighbors and plastic surgery.

CULT CHOICE

A ballerina's (Maira Shearer) inspiration proves fatal in director Michael Powell's magnificent 1948 Technicolor fantasy **THE RED SHOES** (Fri., 10 p.m., TCM).



MAN OF CONSCIENCE: Jon Voight plays Pope John Paul II as a mature man.

AMONG THE TERRORISTS

Fans of superior thrillers should clear their calendars. The 10-hour miniseries **SLEEPER CELL** (Sun., 10 p.m., Showtime) will air from Sunday to Wednesday and conclude with a two-hour installment Dec. 18. "Cell" takes viewers into a militant Islamic terrorist group operating in Los Angeles. Early on, we learn that one of the members is actually a mole feeding information to the FBI and fighting with the agency to keep his operation going long enough to prevent an attack.

ONE POPE JOHN PAUL II

MOVIE DOWN, ONE TO GO

Jon Voight stars in the miniseries **POPE JOHN PAUL II** (Sun., 9 p.m., CBS). But he won't get much screen time in the first two hours, which concern the young Karol Wojtyla (Cary Elwes). This biography's four-hour format allows for real character

development as it explores Wojtyla's painful efforts to resist the evil of an occupying Nazi army without resorting to violence or being consumed by hate.

MUSH FROM THE PRAIRIE

Erin Cottrell stars in the 2005 Western romance **LOVE'S LONG JOURNEY** (Sat., 9 p.m., Hallmark), a sequel to the earlier films "Love's Enduring Promise" and "Love Comes Softly." Can "Love's Enduring Softness" be far behind?

WHERE DOES THE COUCH GO?

A team of experts sets out to understand the architecture and ceremonial purpose of the world's most famous prehistoric stone circle on the two-hour special **REBUILDING STONEHENGE** (Sun., 9 p.m., National Geographic).

THANKS TO SISTER MARY

HOTPANTS, MIRACLES HAPPEN Carlos answers a calling on **DESPERATE**



'CREATURE' FEATURE: We knew it — even pandas in foreign zoos are cute.

HOUSEWIVES (Sun., 9 p.m., ABC).

AFFORDABLE SHOPPING HOLIDAY WINDOWS 2005 (Sun., 9 p.m., HGTV) showcases glittering department-store displays from New York and London. KEVIN McDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.2.05	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
WRC 4	News		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	The Happy Elf (N) (R)		Three Wishes "Christmas Wishes" (N)		Dateline NBC (R)		News	Tonight Show
WTTG 5	Seinfeld (R)	The Simpsons (R)	The Simpsons (R)	Seinfeld (R)	Bernie Mac	Malcolm-Mid.	Killer Instinct "Shake Rattle & Roll"		News		Geraldo at Large	Friends (R)
WJLA 7	News	ABC Wild News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Santa Claus Is Coming to Town (R)		America's Funniest Home Videos (N)		20/20		News	(35) Nightline
WUSA 9	News	CBS News	9News Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ghost Whisperer "Pilot" (R)		Knots Landing Reunion: Together Again (N) (R)				News	Late Show
WDCA 20	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Friends (R)	Every-Raymond	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) (R)				The Tyra Banks Show (R)		Girlfriends (R)	Girlfriends (R)
WMPT 22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	State Circle		Queen: Live at Wembley Stadium (R)				NOW (N) (R)	Get Down Tonight: The Disco Explosion (R)		
WETA 26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Washington Week	Inside Wash.	NOW (N) (R)	Motown: The Early Years				
WHUT 32	White House	Tavis Smiley (R)	BBC World News	Moneywise	Evening Exch	Live Younger Longer: The Canyon Ranch Guide			BBC World News	Tavis Smiley (R)	Charlie Rose (N) (R)	
WBDC 39	Steve Harvey	The Parkers (R)	My Wife and Kids	Bernie Mac	What I Like	Reba (R)	Reba (R)	Twins (R)	Bernie Mac	My Wife and Kids	Sex and the City	Will & Grace (R)
A&E	City Confidential (R)		American Justice: Teena Brandon		★ ★ "Point Break" (1991) Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves. Premiere. (R)						Playboy's Celebrity Centerfolds (N) (R)	
Animal	The Crocodile Hunter (R)		The Most Extreme Lethal injections.		The Planet's Funniest Animals (R)	Animal Report	Animal Rescue		Miami Animal Police (R)		The Planet's Funniest Animals (R)	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)		Black College		★ ★ ★ "New Jack City" (1991, Drama) Wesley Snipes, Ice-T, Judd Nelson.				Comicview Steve Brown. (N)		In Living Color (R)	In Living Color (R)
Bravo	Inside the Actors Studio "Elton John" Elton John. (R)				Great Things About the Holidays	Great Things About the Holidays (N)			Great Things About the Holidays (N)		Great Things About the Holidays	
Comedy	Mad TV (R) (R)		Com.-Presents	Reno 911! (R)	Daily Show	Comedy Central Presents (R)	Com.-Presents		Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Comedians	Premium Blend
Court	Hollywood Heat	Masterminds	Cops (R) (R)	Cops (R) (R)	The Investigators "Dark Secrets"	Forensic Files	Forensic Files		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Smoking Gun TV Year-End Special	
Discovery	Deadly Manhunt (Part 1 of 2) (R)		Deadly Manhunt (Part 2 of 2) (R)		To Be Announced	I Shouldn't Be Alive (N)			A Haunting Haunted townhouse. (N)		A Haunting A house in Tucson, Ariz.	
DISCH	Paramedics "Dream World"		Trauma: Life in the ER (R)		Trauma: Life in the ER (R)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner (R)		Medical Fraud Investigators (R)		Trauma: Life in the ER (R)	
Disney	Sister, Sister (R)	Phil of the Future	Zack & Cody	That's So Raven	★ ★ "Return to Never Land" (2002) Blayne Weaver (R)		Zack & Cody		Zack & Cody	Sister, Sister (R)	That's So Raven	That's So Raven
E!	Supermodels	Gastineau Girls	El News (N)	El News	Country Divas: The El True Hollywood Story (R)				The Soup (N)	Party at the Palms	Howard Stern	Howard Stern
FX	King of the Hill (R)	King of the Hill (R)	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Nip/Tuck "Granville Trapp"		Nip/Tuck "FrankenLaura"	
HGTV	Wknd Warriors	A Very Merry Curb Appeal		House Hunters	Get Color (N)	Design Remix	Double Take (N)	FreeStyle (N)	Designer Finals	House Hunters	Debbie Travis' Facelift (N) (R)	
Family	7th Heaven (R) (R)		Nestor Donkey	C'mas Snow	★ ★ "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" (1992, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. (R)				Whose Line?		The 700 Club (R)	
History	Hitler's Managers (Part 5 of 5) (R)		Modern Marvels: The Autobahn		Pacific: The Lost Evidence (N) (R)		Pacific: The Lost Evidence "Tarawa"		Heroes Under Fire Hostages. (N)		Digging: The Search for El Dorado	
Lifetime	The Golden Girls	Will & Grace (R)	★ ★ "A Christmas Romance" (1994, Drama) Olivia Newton-John. (R)		★ ★ "Comfort and Joy" (2003) Nancy McKen, Dixie Carter. (R)						Will & Grace (R)	How Clean
MTV	Real World Reunion		Making Band	Making Band	ET on MTV (N) (R)	Making the Video	MTV Cribs (R)	MTV Cribs (R)	MTV Cribs (R)	MTV Cribs (R)	MTV Cribs (R)	MTV Cribs (R)
NICK	All Grown Up (R)	Danny Phantom	SpongeBob	Catscratch (R)	Avatar: The Last Airbender (R)		Danny Phantom	Nicktoons TV (R)	Full House (R)	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	The Cosby Show
SCIFI	The Triangle	★ ★ "Stargate" (1994) Kurt Russell. An artifact found in Egypt is the doorway to another world.			CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (R)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (R)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (R)	Ed Harris. An oil-rig crew is involved in a search for a nuclear sub. (R)				
SPIKE	World's Wildest Police Videos (R)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (R)		Friends (R)	Friends (R)	★ ★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder. Premiere. (R)		★ ★ "Uncle Buck" (1989, Comedy) John Candy, Amy Madigan. Premiere.		★ "The Waterboy" (1998) (R)	
TBS	Seinfeld (R) (R)	Seinfeld (R) (R)	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	What Not to Wear "Doria" (R)		What Not to Wear Large clothing. (N)		Ballroom Bootcamp (N)		What Not to Wear "Doria" (R)	
TLC	Martha (N) (R)		That Yin Yang Thing "Strikeout" (N)		Law & Order "Formerly Famous" (R)		2005 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Awards Ceremony (Live) (R)					
TNT	Charmed "Heartbreak City" (R) (R)		Law & Order "Hunters" (R)		★ ★ "Bruce Almighty" (2003) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman. Premiere. (R)				Monk (N) (R)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent (R)	
USA	(3:00) ★ "Coyote Ugly" (2000) (R)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (R)		40 Greatest Pranks (R)				2005 Hook-Ups and Break-Ups (R)		Best Week Ever	The Fab 40 (R)
VH1	Top 40 of 2005 Countdown (N) (R)											
TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemundo	La Tormenta		El Cuerpo del Deseo		Corazón Partido	Decisiones	Decisiones		Noti-Telemundo	Titulares y Mas
UNIV	Que Locura!	Noticiero Univ	Piel de Otono Mujeres valientes.		Contra Viento y Marea		La Esposa Virgen		Gilberto Gless	Los Perplejos	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) (R)		NBA Shootaround		NBA Basketball New York Knicks at Detroit Pistons. (S Live) (R)						NBA Basketball Cleveland Cavaliers at Seattle Sonics.	
ESPN2	Wm. Soccer	Quite Frankly With Stephen A. Smith	NFL Matchup (N)		Bound for Glory		College Football Louisiana Tech at Fresno State. (Live) (R)				College Football Virginia at Miami.	
CSN	Totally Football	SportsNite (R)	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Washington Wizards. From MCI Center in Washington, D.C.		Wizards Post.				SportsNite (Live) (R)			
CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight (R)		The Situation Room		Paula Zahn Now (R)		Larry King Live Rick Warren. (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (R)			
FNC	Special Report (Live) (R)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		Hannity & Colmes (Live) (R)				On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
MSNBC	The Abrams Report		Hardball (R)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Rita Cosby Live & Direct		Scarborough Country		The Situation With Tucker Carlson	
AMC	(5:30) ★ ★ "Solaris" (2002) George Clooney. 'PG-13'		★ ★ ★ "Antwone Fisher" (2002, Drama) Derek Luke, Joy Bryant. 'PG-13' (R)						Movies Shook	Movies 101 (N)	"Tales From the Crypt"	
TCM	(1:15) ★ ★ ★ "Gold Diggers of 1933" (1933) Warren William. 'NR' (R)		★ ★ ★ "Dinner at Eight" (1933, Comedy) John Barrymore. 'NR' (R) (DVS)						★ ★ ★ "The Red Shoes" (1948, Drama) Maira Shearer. 'NR'			
HBO	(5:30) ★ ★ "Garfield: The Movie" (R)		Inside the NFL (R) (R)		★ ★ "I, Robot" (2004, Science Fiction) Will Smith. 'PG-13' (R)				Ask Dr. Baden: An Autopsy Special		Curb-Enthem	★ ★ Paparazzi
MAX	Welcome-Moos.	★ ★ ★ "Garden State" (2004) Zach Braff. 'R' (R)			(1:15) ★ ★ "The Whole Ten Yards" (2004) Bruce Willis. 'PG-13' (R)				★ ★ ★ "Ocean's Twelve" (2004) George Clooney, Brad Pitt. 'PG-13' (R)			
SHOW	(1:15) ★ ★ ★ "Super Size Me" (2004, Documentary) iTV. 'PG-13' (R)				★ ★ ★ "Fahrenheit 9/11" (2004, Documentary) iTV. 'R' (R)				Masters of Horror "Homecoming" (R)		Boxing: Diaz vs. Guerrero	
TMC	(4:30) Avalon 'R'	"The Kiss" (2003) Terence Stamp. Premiere. 'NR' (R)			★ ★ "Dangerous Minds" (1995) Michelle Pfeiffer. Premiere. 'R' (R)				★ ★ ★ "Barbershop 2: Back in Business" (2004) Ice Cube. 'PG-13' (R)			
STARZ!	(4:15) The Alamo	(3:5) ★ ★ ★ "The Missing" (2003, Western) Tommy Lee Jones, Cate Blanchett. 'R' (R)			★ ★ ★ "Friday Night Lights" (2004) Billy Bob Thornton. 'PG-13' (R)						"The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou"	
ENCORE	★ ★ "Con Air" (1997, Suspense) Nicolas Cage, John Cusack. 'R' (R)				Bullets Over Hollywood (N)		(1:15) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983) Al Pacino. A Cuban immigrant fights to the top of Miami's drug trade. 'R' (R)					

**WIZARDS**

Seven-Up: One month into the season, Washington finds itself looking to improve on a 7-7 record this weekend vs. Milwaukee | **34**

Sports Weekend

Confidence Men

Redskins still believe in themselves despite last 3 painful defeats

REDSKINS | Shawn Springs knew about this week's opponent, St. Louis, and their fourth-quarter comeback win against the Texans. It was his defense's string of breakdowns he wanted to forget.

"I'm still getting over my own team's loss," the Redskins cornerback said, smarting from a 23-17 overtime loss to San Diego that looked to be in the bag heading into the fourth quarter.

Sweet victory has scorned the 'Skins three weeks in a row. It was almost in their grasp in mid-November, but then ran off at the last minute with a gang of pirates in Tampa. Two weeks at home couldn't seal the deal either, as Washington (5-6) watched former family members named Marty and Norv walk off cradling the prize.

One episode like that will dent the confidence of the strongest of men. Three straight will put them into counseling.

"When you lose close games week in and week out, there's going to be some lingering effects," Redskins defensive tackle Joe Salave'a said. "Those are things that guys think about."

It was hard to escape those thoughts this week. The demons of the 2-point conversion in Tampa, the late-game lackluster offensive maneuvers and the memory of LaDainian Tomlinson's back as he ran toward the corner of the end zone at FedEx Field last week snowballed into one big question: With no margin for error, can the Redskins clear the mental hurdle of midseason disappointments and turn it on down the stretch?



Right: Can Portis hit a home run vs. Rams?

Above: Brunell says the team needs to execute better.

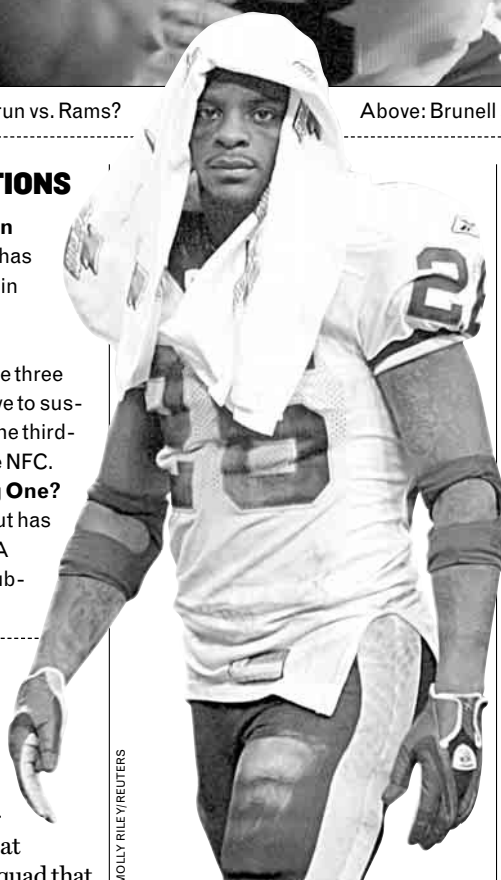
3 BURNING QUESTIONS

→ **Which Team Shows in the Fourth?** Washington has blown three straight leads in the final 15 minutes.

→ **Why Even Play Third Down?** The Redskins were three for 14 last week. They'll have to sustain drives better against the third-best scoring offense in the NFC.

→ **Can Portis Bust a Big One?** He's having a good year, but has made only a few big runs. A fast track and the Rams' sub-par defense should help.

In an attempt to head off the December doldrums, the team brass held a veterans meeting and posted some bulletin board fodder aimed at rekindling the spirits of a squad that



MOLLY RILEY/REUTERS

started the season so well.

After all, a loss to the high-scoring Rams (5-6) will knock them from playoff contention, giving them a real reason to hang their heads the rest of the season.

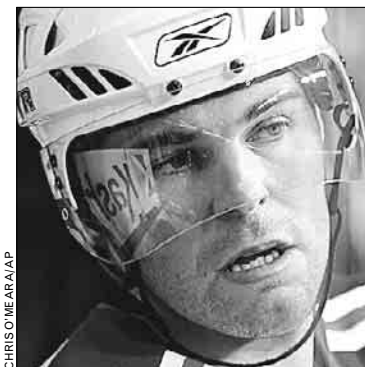
"The confidence is still there," quarterback Mark Brunell said. "To get to the postseason, it would take five straight [wins]. Maybe we'll get a win and get on a roll."

To do that, Brunell and the Washington offense will have to find a way to convert on third down while the 'Skins' defense will have to slow down St. Louis' offense, which seems to put at least three touchdowns on the board no matter who's quarterbacking their squad.

"I think we have a pretty good game plan put together," Brunell said, "but we need to go out and execute all four quarters."

ERIC BRANDNER

TV Lineup



Chris O'NEARA/AP
Jaromir Jagr has found his scoring touch in N.Y. after losing it in D.C.

→ **BLUE MOON:** Jaromir Jagr returns to D.C. when the New York Rangers face the Washington Capitals on Saturday (7 p.m. on CSN)

→ **MEETING IN ST. LOUIS:** The tumbling Redskins start a two-game road trip against the Rams on Sunday (4 p.m. on Fox).

→ **FIRST IN WAR:** Navy aims to retain the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy when taking on Army on Saturday (2:30 p.m. on CBS) in Philadelphia.

→ **ACC ON THE LINE:** Virginia Tech gets an automatic BCS birth with a win over Florida State in the inaugural ACC Championship in Jacksonville on Saturday (8 p.m. on ACC).



Bogut

→ BUCK UP:

The Washington Wizards get their first look at No. 1 overall pick Andrew Bogut when the Milwaukee Bucks visit the MCI Center on Friday (7 p.m. on CSN).

→ **WHERE'S ST. LEO?** Georgetown has an uncharacteristically hard early-season road game against Oregon on Saturday (3 p.m. on FSN)

→ **LA-LA LAND:** No. 1 USC will secure a spot in the Rose Bowl if it can beat UCLA on Saturday (4:30 p.m. on ABC). Texas plays Colorado (1 p.m. on ABC) for a shot in the game as well.



RED SOX | Who's Its Daddy? The Red Sox have filed a lawsuit seeking a court order to keep the ball that Doug Mientkiewicz caught for the final out to clinch Boston's 2004 World Series title, The Boston Globe reported Thursday. Mientkiewicz later put the ball in a safe deposit box and claimed ownership when the Red Sox asked for it 13 months ago. In January, days after he was traded to the New York Mets, he agreed to lend the ball to the Red Sox for one year. He would get it back "unless the ultimate issue of ownership has been otherwise resolved," the agreement said. (AP)



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Weekend Sports



BRENT SMITH/REUTERS

Jerome Bettis and the Pittsburgh Steelers take on the division-leading Cincinnati Bengals just six days after losing to the undefeated Indianapolis Colts on Monday.

Steel Curtain to Fall on Bengals

Cincinnati, Pittsburgh play for domination of AFC North division

PRO PICKS | The Indianapolis Colts have shown the Pittsburgh Steelers that they control the AFC. The Cincinnati Bengals want to show the Steelers that they control the AFC North. The Bengals go to Pittsburgh on Sunday hoping to take a two-game lead in the division with four games to go as they seek to make the playoffs for the first time since 1990. That also is the last time Cincinnati finished over .500, and a victory would be its ninth, clinching a winning season. The Steelers are favored by 3 1/2. **STEELERS, 23-17.**

→ **DALLAS** (plus 3) at **NEW YORK GIANTS**. New York's DE tandem of Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora forces a couple of Drew Bledsoe turnovers. **GIANTS, 24-16.**

→ **ATLANTA** (plus 3) at **CAROLINA**. Carolina can take control of the NFC South. **PANTHERS, 27-21.**

→ **TENNESSEE** (plus 16) at **INDIANAPOLIS**. Not much of an

impediment to 12-0. **COLTS, 30-6.**

→ **SEATTLE** (minus 4) at **PHILADELPHIA** (Monday night). Seattle has to fly cross-country after a bruising win. **SEAHAWKS, 23-20.**

→ **DENVER** (minus 1 1/2) at **KANSAS CITY**. Last chance in the division for Kansas City. **CHIEFS, 31-30.**

→ **NEW YORK JETS** (plus 10) at **NEW ENGLAND**. Fixtures like this are why the Patriots will win the East. **PATRIOTS, 34-20.**

→ **GREEN BAY** (plus 7) at **CHICAGO**. The Bears have lost 11 straight home games to Favre and friends. **BEARS, 17-9.**

→ **MINNESOTA** (minus 3) at **DETROIT**. Mariucci's firing could inspire the Lions. **LIONS, 16-15.**

→ **WASHINGTON** (minus 3) at **ST. LOUIS**. Jamie Martin or Ryan Fitzpatrick might struggle against the 'Skins' defense. **REDSKINS, 27-19.**

→ **HOUSTON** (plus 7) at **BALTIMORE**. The Ravens are bad. The Texans are awful. **RAVENS, 8-5.** DAVE GOLDBERG (AP)

DreamTeam

FANTASY FOOTBALL | BY CHRIS MINCHER

Look Ahead on The Schedule

THESEASON is drawing to a close, and you need to start figuring out who you're going to have in your play-off run. It's no longer about having players who will have a good season — it's about players who will have a few good games.

That's why, in fantasy-league playoffs, match-ups are more important than any other time in the season. There's no long-term to consider anymore. It's all about analyzing schedules.

The top 5 easiest schedules to finish out the season are, as follows: Jacksonville, Houston, New England and Seattle (tied), and Arizona. What this means: QBs David Garrard, David Carr, Matt Hasselbeck and Kurt Warner make great plays; as do receivers Jimmy Smith, Eric Wilford, Andre Johnson, Corey Bradford, Bobby Engram, Joe Jurevicius, Deion Branch, Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin. And God help those who are going up against someone playing Shaun Alexander.

KILLER 'B'S

→ **BEN ROETHLISBERGER, QB, PITTSBURGH STEELERS**. Nevermind the first road loss — it was against the Colts; cut the guy some slack! Instead, remember that 103.5 QB rating this year.

→ **BRIAN FINNERAN, WR, ATLANTA FALCONS**. Finneran — already having a surprisingly back-on-the-map season — will likely continue to benefit from Michael Vick's passing attack.

CATCH AND RELEASE

→ **TAYLOR JACOBS, WR, WASHINGTON REDSKINS**. Jacobs' chance to prove he wasn't just a character in Steve Spurrier La-La Dream Land came when David Patten went out for the season — but he still can't crack 50 yards a game.

→ **COURTNEY ROBY, WR, TENNESSEE TITANS**. Eyebrows were arched when Roby hauled in seven for 83 yards and a TD against Oakland. Brows were scratched in perturbation as he caught just four more in the following three games.

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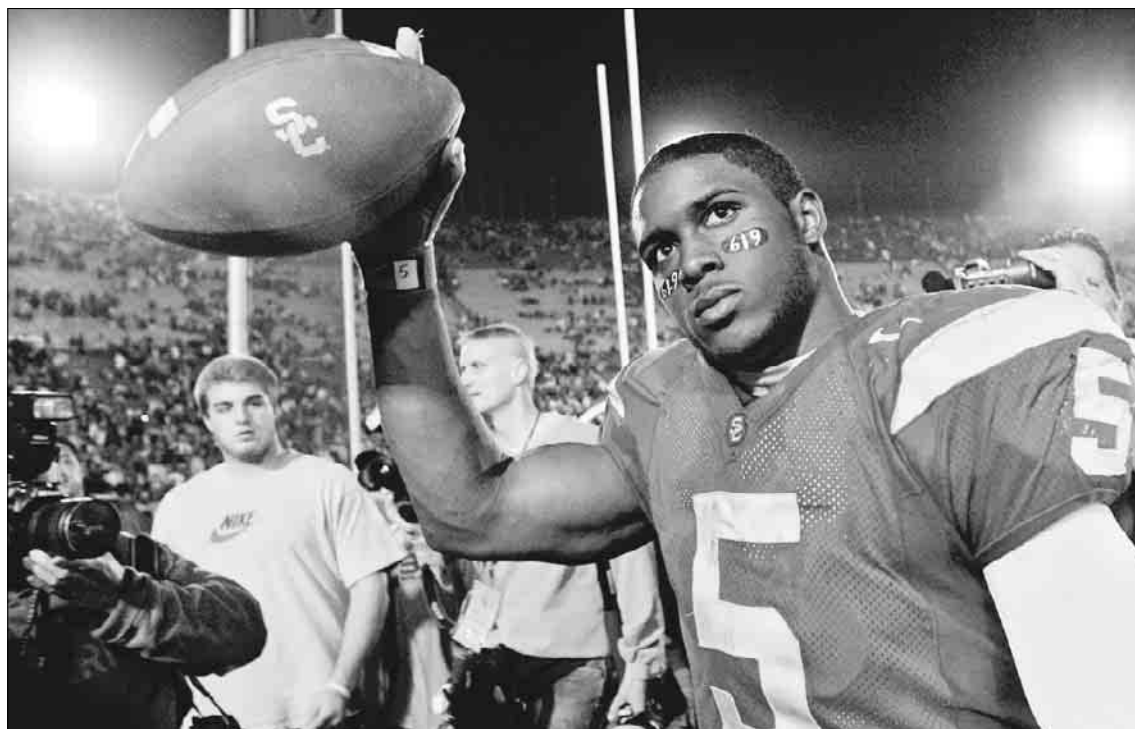
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Sports | Weekend



RUNNING MAN: After Reggie Bush gained 513 yards against Fresno State, is there any question why he's the Heisman favorite?

Bruins' Mission: Stop Bush

Lowly UCLA defense takes on Heisman favorite

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | UCLA has made a string of opposing runners look like Heisman Trophy material — and none was exactly Reggie Bush.

The No. 11 Bruins' generous defense is allowing 219.5 yards rushing a game to rank 115th in the country. UCLA knows it will have to plug many holes to have a chance against No. 1 Southern California (11-0) at the Coliseum on Saturday.

Bush, who was extraordinary in a 29-24 victory over UCLA a

year ago, has played even better as a junior this season and is a leading candidate for the Heisman.

He and power-running teammate LenDale White will be slashing at a defense that allowed Justin Forsett to rush for 153 yards and Marshawn Lynch 135 for California; Jerome Harrison to pick up 260 for Washington State; and Mike Bell to run for 153 and Gilbert Harris another 113 for Arizona.

Bush, coming off a 50-42 victory over Fresno State when he set a Pac-10 record with 513 all-pur-

pose yards, has gained 1,398 yards rushing and is averaging 8.6 yards a carry. He also has 31 catches for 383 yards and is always dangerous on kickoff and punt returns.

UCLA (9-1, 6-1 Pac-10) hasn't played since beating Arizona State 45-35 on Nov. 12 to bounce back from the humbling 52-14 loss at Arizona the previous week.

Defensive coordinator Larry Kerr said the Bruins have watched a lot of film, with Bush usually in the starring role. "Every game's like a high-light film. You can see him doing something spectacular in every game," Kerr said. **KEN PETERS (AP)**

USC, Texas Run for the Rose Bowl

COLLEGE PICKS | Heisman Trophy voters have one last opportunity to eye the front-runners.

No. 1 Southern California, led by its dynamic duo of Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, faces No. 11 UCLA on Saturday with a chance to claim a spot in the national title game.

Vince Young and No. 2 Texas try to secure their place in the Rose Bowl against Colorado in the Big 12 championship game.

Conventional wisdom put Bush at the head of the Heisman pack

after his off-the-charts performance against Fresno State — 513 all-purpose yards — two weeks ago.

→ No. 11 **UCLA** (plus 21) at No. 1 **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**. USC goes for seven in a row against cross-town rival ... **USC 55-35**.

→ Big 12 championship, **COLORADO** (plus 27 ½) vs. No. 2 **TEXAS**. Not much different from first meeting this season ... **TEXAS 45-14**.

→ SEC championship, No. 13

GEORGIA (plus 2) vs. No. 3 **LSU**. Rematch of 2003 title game, won by LSU 34-13 ... **LSU 21-20**.

→ ACC championship, **FLORIDA ST.** (plus 14) vs. No. 5 **VIRGINIA TECH**. Seminoles trying to avoid first four-game losing streak under longtime coach Bobby Bowden ... **VIRGINIA TECH 29-13**.

→ **ARMY** (plus 6 ½) vs. **NAVY** at Philadelphia. Navy has won five of six meetings ... **NAVY 26-21**.

RALPH D. RUSSO (AP)

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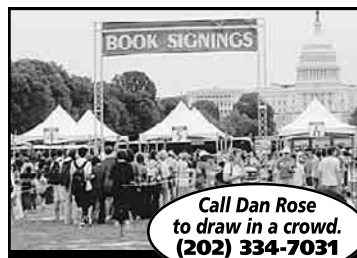
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Weekend Sports

Swengali

COLLEGE HOOPS | BY MATT SWENSON

Hoyas-Terps: A Lost Rivalry

IT WASN'T TOO LONG AGO that Georgetown's most feared non-conference opponent was Saint Leo's. So the Hoyas deserve real credit for playing road games against Oregon and Illinois in the next week.

That being said, there's still one team noticeably absent from the schedule: Maryland.

On Monday, the No. 23 Terps will take on No. 19 George Washington in the featured game of the BB&T Classic — the tournament designed to showcase area teams, a tourney that Georgetown has never played in.

Now that's a good game between two ranked local teams, but it lacks the certain flare that the Hoyas could bring to the table with their historic success under John Thompson Jr.

For whatever reason, Georgetown and Maryland rarely play. The last time was the 2001 NCAA Tournament in the West region. The last local game was

Joe Smith's coming out party in 1993 at the former Capital Center, then the Hoyas' home court.

Understandably, Terps coach Gary Williams wants Georgetown to play in College Park to return the long overdue favor. That tension seems to be at the root of why the area's marquee teams don't square off even with an annual local event.

The Hoyas should bury the hatchet and play the Terps.

If John Thompson III is willing to fly cross-country to face Oregon on Saturday, couldn't he save money and rent a bus to the Comcast Center?

The Hoyas should bury the hatchet and play the Terps on their home floor. Then let's have them be part of the BB&T along with George Washington. It wouldn't be like Philly's Big 5, but it would be good enough for us.

Matt Swenson is Express' sports editor.
E-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Key to Vick-Tory

Star QB has a chance to shine as Hokies play for ACC championship

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Marcus Vick draws praise for his poise from his coaches and teammates nearly all the time. He'll never have a better chance to show he's worthy of the accolades.

The quarterback for fifth-ranked Virginia Tech will be tested by Florida State in the ACC championship game Saturday night. A heavy pass rush is anticipated, and Vick has strict orders to get rid of the ball.

The last time Virginia Tech played a team with the speed of the Seminoles was Miami. Vick was miserable, throwing two interceptions and fumbling the ball away four times in a 27-7 loss. This time, a running attack that has piled up 610 yards in its last two games could be the centerpiece of the Virginia Tech offense.

Vick is taking it in stride. "We've just got to try to match it up, put a hat on a hat and see if we can block



Marcus Vick hasn't been asked to carry the load since Virginia Tech lost to Miami.

these guys," he said.

Vick hasn't been asked to do as much since the loss. Instead, the Hokies (11-1) have relied on Cedric Humes and Branden Ore to carry the load.

Coach Frank Beamer bristled at the notion that Vick has been de-emphasized, even while allow-

ing that Vick can improve as the Hokies and Seminoles vie for a spot in the Bowl Championship Series — probably against Penn State in the Orange Bowl.

"Marcus is very much a threat, very much responsible for this football team being where it is," Beamer said. HANK KURZ JR. (AP)

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Well-Rounded Education

Caps' Eminger learns to become a complete player in rookie season

CAPITALS | Jaromir Jagr is returning Saturday night to the MCI Center, where for three seasons his level of play did not match that of his superstar salary.

Now, of course, he is third in the NHL in scoring as a member of the New York Rangers and ready to feast on a Washington defense ranked second to last heading into last night's games.

The Caps' blueliners have improved slightly over the past few contests, however, and some of that is due to the rapid maturation of Steve Eminger, 22, the team's youngest defenseman.

The 12th pick in the 2002 draft, the Toronto native appears certain to break the team's tradition of selecting first-round busts.

Big, mobile and endowed with leadership qualities that lately have earned him the assistant captain's role, Eminger is thriving in a situation in which much is being asked of a rookie.

"If you start on a good team, a team that's contending for the Stanley Cup, it makes it kind of easier on a young guy," Eminger said. "But I'm getting a lot of ice time, a lot of opportunity on the penalty kill and power play,



LAST LINE OF DEFENSE: Rookie defender Steve Eminger gets the task of being one of the Washington Capitals in charge of stopping former Capital Jaromir Jagr, who returns to the MCI Center as a member of the New York Rangers Saturday night.

"I want to forget my time in Washington. It was a good experience. But I am happy I'm here."

Jaromir Jagr, glad to be facing the Caps as a member of the New York Rangers | **Today in Sports**

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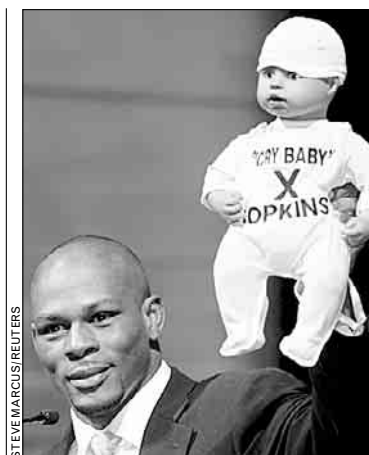
that's the only way you're going to learn."

Eminger seems to be a well rounded guy — he lists the emotionally gripping mountain climbing tale "Touching the Void" as his favorite book and "Dumb and Dumber" as his favorite film — and he's becoming a well-rounded player.

He is one of only four Caps with a positive plus/minus rating, he's second on the team in penalty minutes with 41 and third in points at 14 (3 goals, 11 assists).

"I want to be a good two-way defenseman," he said. "That's what I've got to do, I guess, to stay here."

BRIAN STRAUS



Jermain Taylor holds up a cry-baby doll meant to depict Bernard Hopkins.

Taylor Out To Repeat History

Middleweight champ defends his title in rematch vs. Hopkins

BOXING | The lights bothered Jermain Taylor, and so did the media. He was overwhelmed by the moment, and awed by his opponent.

Once his middleweight title fight with Bernard Hopkins began, Taylor made the rookie mistake of chasing the champion around the ring. The fight ended with Taylor out of gas and taking a beating in the final rounds.

Somehow, though, Taylor became the new middleweight champion. "That was the worst night of boxing I've had in my life," Taylor said. "But I still won the fight."

Taylor not only won the fight, but he made history, too. He stopped a record streak of 20 consecutive title defenses by Hopkins, who hadn't lost in 12 years, and left the ring as the undisputed 160-pound king.

Now the two get back in the ring Saturday night to do it again. Taylor climbed out of the ring July 16 with a split decision that not only irritated Hopkins but was controversial among ringside observers. Most felt Hopkins did enough in the late rounds to pull the fight out.

"It's not good for Jermain Taylor to get back in the ring with me," Hopkins warned. "I beat the guy the first time and I'm going to do it again. This time it won't go the distance." **TIM DAHLBERG (AP)**

For Jacobs: Pain, Little Gain

Injury-plagued receiver takes on a starting role

REDSKINS | August has not been kind to Taylor Jacobs. A bruised pancreas ruined his rookie season in 2003, a strained abdominal muscle set him back in 2004, and a sprained big left toe sidelined him this year.

The story was painfully repetitive. The talented receiver from Florida would impress his Redskins coaches during the offseason, and they would plan to make him an integral part of the offense — until the injuries in training camp forced them to go to other options. Jacobs would spend the rest of the year try-

ing to catch up.

"It's always something that happened to him, the injury has always caught him," assistant coach Joe Bugel said Thursday.

Now it is December, and for the first in his pro career, Jacobs is needed. Injuries to David Patten and James Thrash have made him a starter, one who needs to produce to take some of the attention away from leading receiver Santana Moss.

"I think of all the stuff that has happened," Jacobs said. "I'm just ready to go. I'm ready to make



something happen."

Jacobs made his first start of the season last week against San Diego and caught four passes for 44 yards. It was a promising effort, although not nearly enough to draw the constant double coverage away from Moss. The offense faded in the second half in a 23-17 overtime loss.

The Redskins are trying to set Jacobs up for a bigger day Sunday against the susceptible pass defense of the St. Louis Rams. They want him to use his speed to go deep and beat his man in one-on-one coverage and, if all goes as planned, score his first touchdown as a pro.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Taylor Jacobs just misses making a catch against the Raiders 2 weeks ago.

Weekend Sports

Wizards Break Even

Losing skid now over, Washington works on getting back over .500

WIZARDS | After the double-overtime victory against Detroit on Nov. 25, the Wizards believed the victory could carry them to a winning record for the first month. Then they lost the next night to the lowly Charlotte Bobcats.

Washington got its do-over Wednesday night, with a 96-89 win over Portland. And although the win came against the road-weary and tuckered Trail Blazers, the Wizards say it is a launching pad to regain momentum. For real, this time.

"It really is. We've got a playoff-contention team," small forward Caron Butler said. "We want to go out and get our point across."

With two wins out of their last four, the losing streak is officially over. Tonight's game against the Milwaukee Bucks (7-6) begins a six-game stretch in which four of the Wizards (7-7) games are at



Despite the Wizards' recent struggles, Caron Butler said he believes the team can make the playoffs. Next up is a home game Friday against the Milwaukee Bucks.

home, and players say they put the .500 record in a positive light — as they work out the growing pains, there's no where to go but up.

"Now we know what it takes, what hard work you have to put in to do it," point guard Gilbert Arenas said. "It's not like, 'Oh, I just have to do a couple things here.' No, you have to get better — as a player, as a team."

Arenas has already done that: Proving that his elevation into the NBA elite last year was no fluke, he's taken his points-per-game up to 26.6 — that's fourth in the entire league, for those keeping track at home — while also significantly increasing his assists per game.

Considering that the Wizards sit even keel through the first month, there's cause for optimism if there is even marginal — but constant — improvement.

"It's a long season," shooting guard Antonio Daniels said. "A lot of things can happen throughout the course of a season. In this league, consistency is great."

It is a long season, but many players don't feel like taking all of it to get things back on track.

"We're hoping to accomplish something sooner rather than later," said center Etan Thomas.

CHRIS MINCHER (EXPRESS)

In Brief

HORSE RACING

Preakness, Belmont Winner Afleet Alex Calls It a Career

Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner Afleet Alex was retired Thursday because of new injuries, ending a career in which his gritty ride in the second leg of the Triple Crown was one of the highlights of the racing season. The injuries were discovered before the horse was shipped to Gulfstream Park this week. An ankle injury has sidelined Afleet Alex since his victory in the Belmont on June 11. (AP)

DRUGS

ESPN Suspends Irvin for One Week Following Arrest

Michael Irvin says he has been suspended by ESPN for one week for not telling the network about his arrest last week, when police found a drug pipe hidden in his car during a traffic stop. Irvin, who has maintained that the pipe belonged to a friend, told The Associated Press on Thursday that he won't return to the air until Dec. 11. (AP)

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McNeil Technologies, Inc. is currently seeking a Certified Records Manager with DoD/Federal Agency experience.

Operational knowledge should encompass records disposition, electronic records management, correspondence management/tracking, records management functions, and records access functions.

This position requires a minimum of (7) seven years of practical experience and a demonstrated knowledge of DoD, DoS and other related agencies. An understanding of the Executive Branch and its organization and structure is highly desired. The ideal candidate will possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must be Records Management Certified (CRM).

Applicants selected for this position will be subject to a government security investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information at the S (Secret) level or better. Candidates that currently possess a TS will receive most favorable consideration.

CANDIDATES MUST HAVE A RECORDS MANAGER CERTIFICATION. You will not be considered without the certification.

McNeil offers competitive salary and excellent benefits package. Please send resumes referencing desired position and salary requirements to mhentz@mcneitech.com. Applicants may also fax their resumes and salary requirements to (703) 778-8954 (ATTN: M. Hentz). EOE/AA

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LOOK out

*TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Food

Hearty winter gourds can instantly warm up the colder months

Off the vine, winter squash look like some kind of exotic rustic pottery, with rich colors and textures that give them the appearance of having been elaborately carved and colored. That beauty makes them one of nature's more versatile vegetables: Until you're ready to eat, you've got a holiday centerpiece.

But once you cook them, they transform completely, that ceramic hardness giving way to a nearly creamy texture and a subtle, nutty sweetness. Of course, that's not going to happen with just any winter squash.

Beautiful as they are, squash can be confusing. Even the name can fool you — winter squash actually are harvested in the fall (hence all those Halloween pumpkins). We call them winter squash only because most varieties have hard, thick rinds that allow them to be stored through the cold winter months when, traditionally, few other vegetables were available.

Winter squash can be rough and

warty, or smooth and sleek. They can be round or cylindrical. The skin can be orange, yellow, green and even nearly blue — or just about any variation thereof. Their flesh can be stringy and fibrous, or smooth as butter. The flavor can be sweet and rich, or thin and vegetal. Winter squash range in size from a little bigger than a tennis ball to more than 100 pounds.

How do you make sense of all this? The good news for cooks — this might sound cynical, but it's

Squash Club

true — is that you can ignore most of them. To put it diplomatically, most winter squash traditionally were prized more for their keeping ability than for any outstanding culinary characteristics.

You are best off focusing on a handful of the best commonly available varieties. In general, winter squash seem to be defined by two variables: texture — from stringy to smooth — and flavor — from nutty sweetness to a kind of green vege-

table flavor we'll call "squashiness" for lack of a better term.

Whatever the variety — butternut, acorn, kabocha — there is an art to choosing a good winter squash. One of the best clues is the stem (which should be present). It should be dry and corky. This tells you the squash stayed on the vine until it was almost ready to fall off, which happens at full maturity.

One important and often overlooked fact is that many winter

squash varieties actually improve after harvest, provided they are properly stored. This is particularly true of squash such as butternut and kabocha, and true to a slightly lesser extent with squash including kuri, pumpkins and hubbards.

If you've never tried sauteing winter squash, you should. The result is somewhere between moist- and dry-heat cooking: The exterior caramelizes nicely, but the interior stays delicate. Even better, instead of tak-

ing 45 minutes to an hour the way roasting does, sauteed squash is done in fewer than 15 minutes.

Cooked this way, winter squash can stand up to the most robust of flavorings. To keep it quick, finish the dish simply with a spoonful of rosemary gremolata, a minced combination of fresh rosemary, garlic and lemon zest (the original is made with parsley and used to garnish osso buco). **RUSS PARSONS** (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

INSIDE

Celebs find their inner potato | **42**

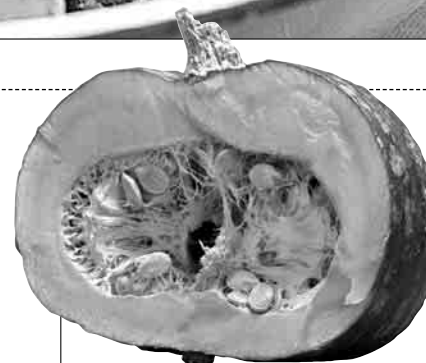


Marc Fisher: A panda is just a bear | **40**

Blog Log: Sex tapes of the rich, famous | **41**



Caramelized squash with pine nuts and rosemary makes for a great meal.



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Marc Fisher

Holiday Mix

Post Metro columnist **MARC FISHER's** Thursday online discussion touched on Xmas

Admit it, Fisher! The baby panda is cute!

You'll get no panda panda-ing from this quarter. A bear is a bear is a bear. You want panda pix, we're happy to serve 'em up, but please remember, they're rented. Come 2007, they go bye-bye.

I hate [it] when the Metro train announcer does not warn riders that “This train will now be moving” following a stop. I have seen passengers fly into each other. We need that second to grab onto something. Oh please! After the train stops, it will move again. This is how trains work. The last thing we need is more announcements.

What is the status of the District's ban on transport of hazardous materials? Last I heard the courts ruled that D.C. government officials should have access to the federal government's planning documents. Has everything been settled since that time?

Last I heard, it's still awaiting a ruling from federal court. Amazingly, the Bush administration, despite all its claims to be on top of the homeland security issue, has refused to address the transport of chlorine gas and other such materials through the center of the District and other cities.

Any info on what Tony Williams might be doing next?

He wants to make big money. So even though he still claims he's going to live here and even buy a house in the city he's ruled for eight years, if he gets a decent offer from

elsewhere, I bet he vamooses.

Before the old convention center site gets built over, the folks in charge need to come downtown to, say 10th and E, look north and see that great view all the way up 10th Street. It makes the whole city feel more open and is worth preserving.

Yes, it's a great view, and no, it ought not be preserved. That site is the key link between downtown and the new convention center, and it needs to be developed in a way that will bring that piece of the city alive. Whether it's a new library, a music museum or whatever else comes along, it needs to be a place that locals and tourists alike want to come to and spend time in. And speaking of that goal, a very ambitious new crafts and food market is about to open on that old convention center site, run by the folks who do the Eastern Market crafts and arts fair. Check it out — there'll be Xmas trees and even some free delivery scheme, as well as food and art. Runs Thursdays through the weekends til the end of the year.

Will you be putting up a holiday tree or a Christmas tree this year?

I don't do animals and I don't do trees. I have fought a decades-long (and losing) battle to pave over the lawn and replace it with a hoops court.

→ **Today on Live Online**

2 P.M.: Post staff writers Michael Lee and Ivan Carter field your questions and comments about NBA season and the Washington Wizards.

Letters

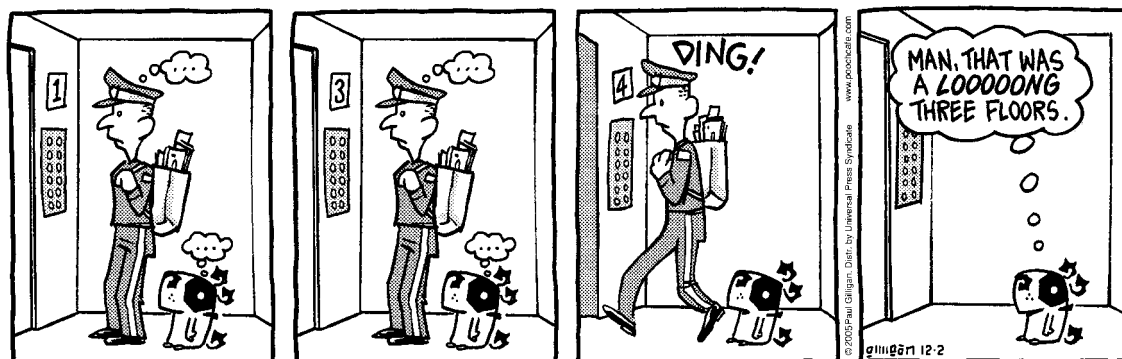
Something to Feel Good About

I want to thank you for the joy you give me with the panda cub's images ("Ready for His Close-Up," Nov.

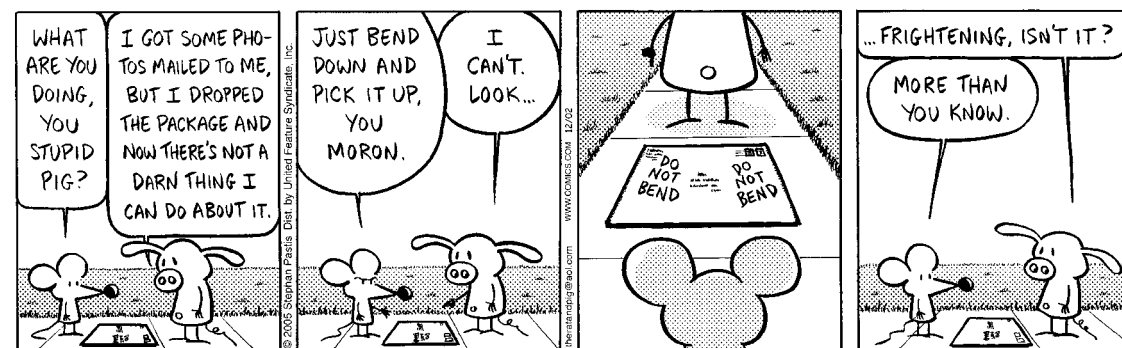
30). I collect every picture of him, and to see him at least once a week smiling at me really makes my day. Thank you so much for according attention to tenderness and joyful things in your paper.

—DOROTHEE POLANZ
Alexandria, Va.

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Bizarro | *Dan Piraro***Cornered** | *Mike Baldwin***Pooch Cafe** | *Paul Gilligan*

Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



“This is just another ploy by a desperate governor seeking re-election. Hopefully the voters of California will see what he is trying to do.”

DEMBLOGGERS.COM CALLS OUT CALIFORNIA'S REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, FOR APPOINTING A DEMOCRAT, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER SUSAN KENNEDY, TO BE HIS NEW CHIEF OF STAFF.

THE Blog LOG

LAST WORDS

“Words are inadequate, but words are all we have. Words like ‘collective punishment’ and ‘ghettoize’ come to mind for the current state of life in Fallujah.”

FROM THE FINAL POSTING ON WAITINGIN THELIGHT.BLOGSPOT.COM, THE BLOG OF CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST TOM FOX OF VIRGINIA, WHO WAS RECENTLY KIDNAPPED IN IRAQ BY THE SWORDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BRIGADE.

PANDA DISTRACTIONS

“Guess the children in Iraq aren’t interesting enough.”

SABLOGS.COM THINKS WASHINGTON’S OBSESSION WITH THE NATIONAL ZOO’S PANDA CUB IS A BIT RIDICULOUS.



PRICED OUT

“I rent — and don’t plan on being able to afford a home in D.C. until, oh, say ... 2048.”

BETTERLIVINGTHROUGHTINTROSPECTION.COM SAYS THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO DO MORE TO MAKE HOUSING AFFORDABLE, NOT ONLY FOR THE POOR, BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WITH MODERATE INCOMES WHO HAVE BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF THE LOCAL HOUSING MARKET.



GOOD PUBLICITY

“The only time these celebrity sex tapes have a negative impact is when they feature gross people like Tonya Harding and her husband. And the only people that tape hurts are the people who watch it.”

IDONTLIKEYOUIN THATWAY.COM SAYS THE POTENTIAL RELEASE OF A SEX TAPE INVOLVING COLIN FARRELL AND A PLAYBOY PLAYMATE CAN ONLY HELP FARRELL’S ACTING CAREER. THE ACTOR IS TRYING TO PREVENT THE TAPE’S RELEASE.

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Things are not likely to be routine, but you can remain on top by being flexible, open-minded and eager.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may be unusually emotional, unwilling to bend when others try to change your mind. Don’t be irrational.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) High hopes are not to be taken lightly — yours or anyone else’s. The power of positive thinking can be invaluable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Risks are few, but you still need to be cautious. Your energy will wax and wane.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Someone may be making new threats. Take them seriously if you want to maintain your position. Avoid idle talk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take stock of your desires and needs. You might discover you are doing better than you think.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You and a rival are cut from the same cloth. It’s time to see eye-to-eye on several important issues.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Your fears and hopes are likely to be liberally intermingled. Look inside your heart to discover a new and valuable yearning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your best bet to quell a growing crisis? Try a quiet, subtle and calm approach — do everything in your power to avoid stirring up more dust.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Accidents and miscalculation must be avoided at all costs. A race to succeed must not lead to otherwise careless errors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Express your appreciation and gratitude openly and freely. Thank everyone who has helped you, even in the smallest way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It’s important to get to the heart of the matter. In searching for the truth, you may be surprised by what you learn about yourself.

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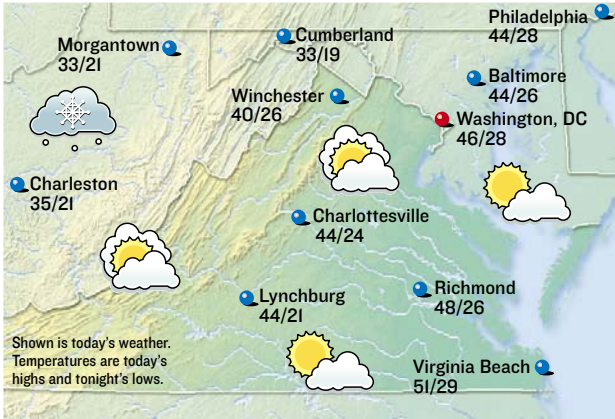


DON'T head to the 'burbs for bowling. Used to be, if you wanted to hit the lanes, you had to hit the road and head beyond the District line. But with the opening this week of Lucky Strike Lanes (701 7th St. NW), you can lace up in Gallery Place. Bud Light comes in pin-shaped bottles!

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Partly sunny, windy, cold 46°	Mostly clear, brisk, cold 28°	Becoming cloudy, remaining cold 42° / 34°	A bit of morning snow and rain 40° / 32°	A chance of rain and snow 38° / 29°	Quite cold, variably cloudy 36° / 24°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2005

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature
High 45°
Low 33°
Normal high 52°
Normal low 36°
Average humidity 62%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.10"
Year to date 41.04"
Last year to date 39.81"
Normal year to date 36.40"

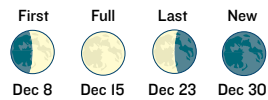
For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

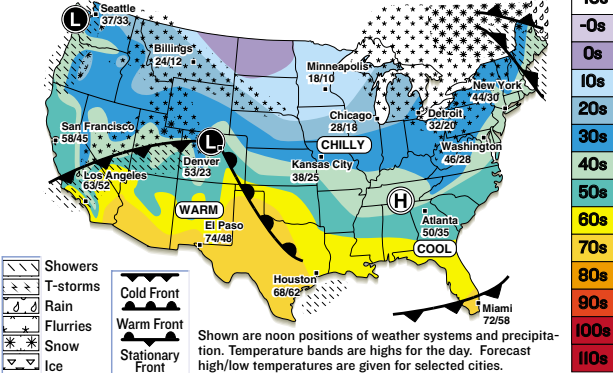
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, windy, colder. High 46. Wind west 20-30 mph. Tonight, mostly clear, blustery, cold. Low 28. Wind west 15-25 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:09 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:46 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:31 a.m.
Moonset today 5:27 p.m.



National Weather for Friday, December 2



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	50/35/s	54/46/sh
Boston	44/31/sh	41/29/pc
Chicago	28/18/pc	32/20/sf
Dallas	66/60/pc	78/46/pc
Denver	53/23/pc	36/14/sf
Honolulu	82/68/pc	82/70/pc
Los Angeles	63/52/r	66/46/s
Miami	72/58/s	77/65/s
New York City	44/30/pc	40/30/pc
Orlando	66/40/s	74/54/s
Seattle	37/33/sh	40/33/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	46/41/c	46/43/sh
Athens	70/55/pc	66/54/s
Berlin	39/27/pc	39/30/i
Buenos Aires	77/63/s	77/69/r
Calgary	1/-9/sf	8/-9/sf
Dublin	48/41/r	46/36/sh
Geneva	41/36/sn	42/37/sh
Moscow	30/23/c	30/14/pc
Rome	57/50/pc	57/50/r
Sydney	79/57/t	75/54/pc
Tokyo	50/39/sh	50/39/sh

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Look out

People



The progeny of Bennifer will surely tantalize the paparazzi for decades to come.

SPAWN

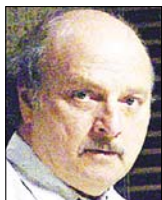
'Chartreuse,' 'Goldenrod,' 'Sepia' Were Runners-Up

Media reports claimed to know two new things about **JENNIFER GARNER** and **BEN AFFLECK**: that they had a new baby Thursday and what their favorite color is. The baby, a girl named Violet, took her first curtain call at a Los Angeles hospital according to US Weekly, which quoted a source as saying Affleck was "with [Garner] the entire time" during labor. It's the first child for both. (EXPRESS)

PARADES

On the Crowd's Wish List: Not to See His Butt Again

"NYPD Blue" star **DENNIS FRANZ** will serve as grand marshal of Santa Barbara's holiday parade. Franz, who lives in Montecito, near Santa Barbara, will join marching bands, floats and Santa Claus in the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization's Holiday Parade on Friday. But he won't stick around long — he plans to spend the holiday at his family's new ranch in Idaho. (AP)



CAUSES

Sweet Potatoes

TONY DANZA, left, and **STEVEN SPIELBERG** were just two of a heaping bundle of celebrities who lent their likenesses for a series of special Mr. Potato Head toys being auctioned on eBay to benefit the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, a group that builds play spaces for kids. Danza is expected to sign his tuber doppelganger on Friday's episode of his syndicated talk show. Among the other pseudo-spuds: Reese Witherspoon, Garth Brooks, Ben Stiller, George Foreman and Paul Newman. Check them out at playskool.com. (EXPRESS)



"Joey" seems destined to become the "Joanie Loves Chachi" for a new generation.

SLOW DEMISES

Lone 'Joey' Viewer Wags Fist at the Heavens in Rage

It's curtains for NBC's "Joey" — at least for a little while. NBC is making big changes to its prime-time lineup for Thursday — the night it used to own in the era of "must-see

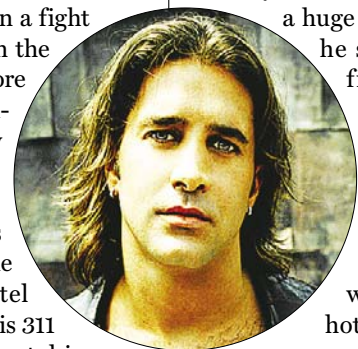
TV" — by instituting a two-hour comedy block led by "My Name Is Earl." Banished from the night, and temporarily off the air entirely, is "Joey," the **MATT LEBLANC**-led spinoff that lost all of the energy and most of the viewers from "Friends." (AP)

LIVING THE DREAM

311 Delivers the Smackdown Everyone's Been Waiting For

Former Creed lead singer **SCOTT STAPP** and members of the band 311 were involved in a fight on Thanksgiving in the lounge of a Baltimore luxury hotel, according to hotel security staff and 311 members. Drummer Chad Sexton says Stapp came into the Harbor Court Hotel bar where he and his 311 bandmates were watching basketball, stepped in front of the TV screen, said, "311, I am ready to fight." Sexton said the band tried to defuse the situation, and Stapp went to the bar to drink. Later, he

made "inappropriate" comments to Martinez's wife and was confrontational with Sexton. "All of a sudden, he clocked me in the left side of my face," Sexton said. "Then a huge fight broke out," he said, which was finally broken up by hotel security.



But Jonathan Jordan, director of security at the hotel, who said the incident was captured on hotel security cameras, said Stapp was "attacked" by several members of 311. It took two security guards to break up the fight, he said. "It was definitely started by 311," Jordan said. (AP)

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Hand It Over | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

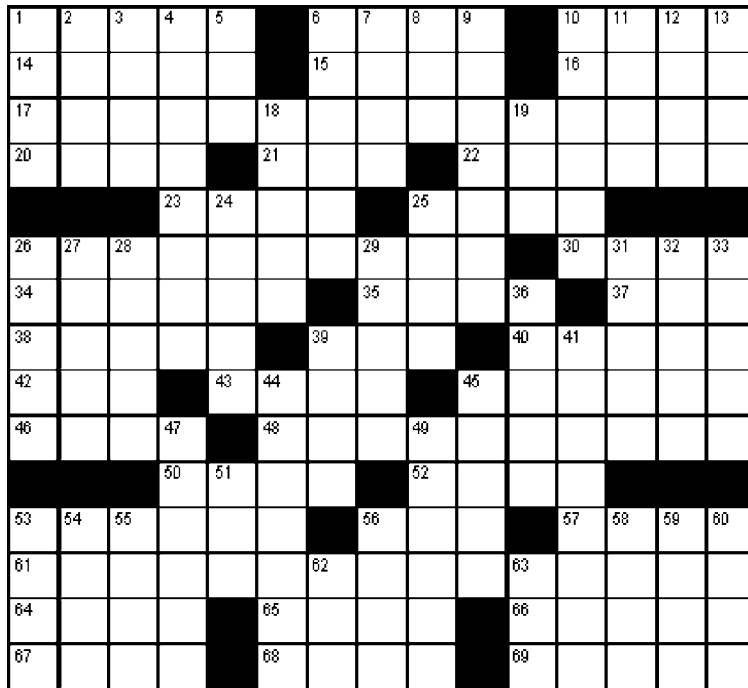
- 1 Da Gama destination
6 Was acquainted with
10 Camp Lejeune truant
14 Pride components
15 Miles from Hollywood
16 Turner of "Peyton Place"
17 Bad thing to have for lunch
20 Delhi garb
21 "___ Howdy Doody time!"
22 Less of a slob
23 Powder ingredient, perhaps
25 Like taking candy from a baby
26 Gardener's asset
30 Singer's name pronounced "Shar-day"
34 Sir Richard of "Camelot"
35 Canal to the Red Sea
37 Director's cry
38 Salt's "Halt!"
39 Merry Pranksters' vehicle
40 Big-time talker
42 Invoice word
43 Site of 1-Across
45 Like many games
46 Ubiquitous medicinal plant
48 One may hold your hand to see?
50 Organic necklaces
52 Bitsy's partner

DOWN

- 53 Peres of Israel
56 Ereno begins it
57 Legal prefix
61 Suddenly remember
64 "___ and Psyche" (Munch painting)
65 Part of a driving test
66 Pungent bulb
67 Insignificant
68 Unhealthy urban haze
69 Japanese port city

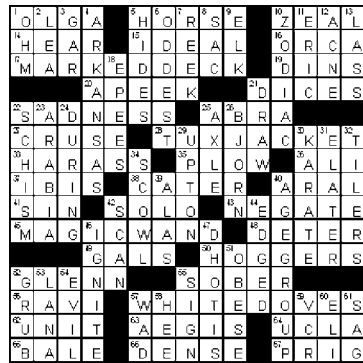
DOWN

- 1 Types
2 1492 ship
3 Sullen
4 Troublemakers
5 Pop the question
6 Whine and complain
7 Nitti's bane
8 Stage of history
9 One who dreams of fame
10 Irving Berlin classic
11 Sit tight
12 This may be enough
13 "If I Only Had the Nerve" singer
18 Happy tunes
19 Word with Moines or Plaines
24 "West Side Story" character
25 Certain birds that cannot fly
26 Gold Coast, today
27 "Myrrha" composer



- 28 Terpsichore's kin
29 Same old, same old
31 Very bitter
32 One of the Allman brothers
33 Flammable solvent
36 City subdivisions
39 Prejudice
41 Toddler corrals
44 Small pianos
45 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright
47 "Maximum Bob" author Leonard
49 Extracting ores
51 Longish span of time
53 Quickly deleted e-mail
54 Philosopher influenced by Locke
55 "Ripley's Believe ___ Not!"
56 American prefix
58 Soprano's big number
59 Fischer's castle
60 Freud's psychoanalyst daughter
62 Grand total
63 Infantile syllable

Yesterday's Solution



Sunday in The Washington Post



Another Turn? With her last tour, Tina Turner said she'd left her good job in the city. But could she be coming out of retirement? | *Arts*

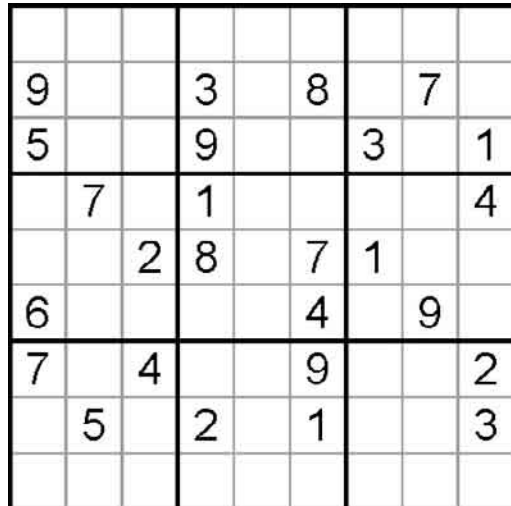
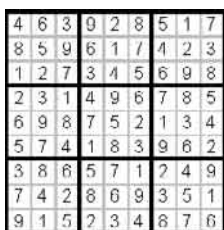
Plate Spinning: Creating the perfect cheese plate isn't as easy as it looks. A few tips and suggestions for taste treats. | *Sunday Source*

Su | do | ku | © Puzzles by Pappocom

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's Solution



Can't get enough Sudoku? Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

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OPEN-DC



Capitol Hill Sun 12-4 \$519,900
Renovated 2 lvl rowhouse corner lot, 3BR, 2.5BA, lg rooms, many upgrades. \$10k in closing help for full price contract. 295 to Benning Rd to H St, R 11th Street to 819.
Kettering Office 301.249.4844



Capitol Hill Sun 12-4 \$995,000
Completely renovated 6BR, 4.5BA. High ceilings, 4 jetted tubs, granite countertops, secured parking and more! K St to 827 4th Street.
Kettering Office 301.249.4844



Columbia Heights Sun 1-4 \$249,000
Sunny loft-like, 1BR unit features bay win, gleaming hwd flrs, 12' ceilings, cook's kit w/new appliances. Dramatic floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. Roof deck. Just blocks to two Metros and the amenities of the U St Corridor and the new 14th St.
Polly Driscoll 202.607.7042



Columbia Heights Sun 1-4 \$600,000
Lg semi-det, 5BR, 3BA, formal DR, fin bsmt, hwd flrs, enclosed porch, fenced-in driveway. 1410 Quincy Street, NW.
Eric Clarke 202.251.4946
ClevPk/Van Ness Ofc 202.362.2044



Old City Sun 1-4 \$500,000
Great buy! Many new updates, 3BR, 1.5BA, full bsmt. 619 14th street NE, off of 14th & Maryland Ave NE.
Jackie Talpa 301.325.8526
ClevPk/Van Ness Ofc 202.362.2044

OPEN-MD



Darnestown Sun 12-4 \$1,165,000
Williamsburg Col w/4900 sf, wood flrs lvs 1 and 2. Huge kit w/center isle, lib, 4BR, 4.5BA. Extensive wood moldings, 4FPs, walk-out bsmt w/huge rec rm and wet bar. Deck w/hot tub, 3 car gar. W RT 28, L Jones Ln, R Scarlet Oak to 13129.
True and Edie Hubler 301.580.2103
Gurg/N.Potomac Ofc 301.417.7770



Alexandria Sun 12-4 \$379,500
Gorgeous 2BR, 2.5BA. 2 lvl TH, all new windows, doors, appliances 2-3 yrs, new carpet & fresh paint. Brick patio opens to common area. At end of street in small development, close to Van Dorn Metro.
Audrey Funk 703.941.0166



Alexandria Sun 1-4 \$454,000
2BR, 2.5BA condo/TH w/oversized gar. Open flr plan, 2MBR ste. 3-sided gas FP. Kit features hwdws, 42" cabs and porcelain sink. Sep dining rm. 395 to Edsall Rd East, L Timberforest, R Mountain Mist, L Birds Vies, L Eagle Ridge to 6341 B.
Marisa Zaneis 571.213.1234



Centreville Sun 1-4 \$349,999
Brand new kitchen, stainless steel appliances. New ceramic flrs, newly remodeled powder rm, MBR has 3 closets. Priced for quick sale! 66W to RT 28S, L New Braddock, L Singletons Way, L Hoskins Hollow Cir to 6128 B.
Tania Gonda 703.627.5083



Fairfax Sun 12-4 \$399,900
End TH w/3 fin lvs, 3BR, 2.5BA w/room for 4th BR in basement! Neutral paint and carpet, updated kit. Walk to Lake Royal, close to VRE.
Audrey Funk 703.941.0166



Falls Church Sat/Sun 1-4 \$579,500
3BR, 2FBA, 2HBA brick end-unit TH w/2500 sf. Looks like a single family home. Large private patio. Priced to sell. Call for special financing package. I-495, exit east on RT 50, L Fairview Park, L Yancey Dr to 7946.
Jim Corley 703.587.7314



Falls Church Sun 1-4 \$305,500
Garden style 1BR, 1BA condo. Open flr plan, sun rm w/view of woods. Hwd flrs, new carpet, new dishwasher, stove, freshly painted. Full-sized washer and dryer, FP. 495 to 50E, R Jaguar Trails, R Willow Point Dr to Bldg #11, unit 7754.
Marisa Zaneis 571.213.1234



Falls Church Sun 1-4 \$475,000
Walk to Metro! Looks like a model! Luxury 2 lvl corner unit. Lg sunny rms, 2 MBRs, 2.5BA, FP, hwdws and more. 66, RT 7E, L Haycock, L Falls Reach Dr, L Metropolitan Pl to 7019, unit 303.
Claudette Schwartz 703.309.4663



Manassas Sat/Sun 1-4 \$509,000
Georgous 2yr old home at end of cul-de-sac. 4BR, 2.5BA, 9' ceilings, hwdws. Kit w/cherry cabs and Corian countertops. Gas FP, 1 car gar, deck, fence on oversized yd, backs to trees. 66W, exit 44, R Wellington Rd, L Lexington Valley Rd, L 2nd Molly Pitcher Cir, R Hanson Grove Ct to 8963.
Astrid Carlson 703.728.5507



Manassas Sun 12-4 \$319,950
3 fin lvs w/3BR and 2.5BA. French door entry to huge MBR ste w/vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet and luxury BA! Eat-in kit w/new appliances. 66 to 234 Business, R Coverstone, L Aaron, R Adler, R Coachcrest to 7977.
Mary Ann Bendinelli 703.307.2499



Warrenton Sun 1-4 \$499,900
DC side of Warrenton. Won't last! Beautiful huge brick-front Col, 5BR, 3.5BA, lovely in-law suite, 2 FPs, 2.5 car gar, park-like setting. A must see!
Donna L. Eames 703.380.8789



Germantown \$359,000
Buyer's delight! Move right in! Spacious TH w/ 3BR, 2FBA, 2HBA, T/S kit, fin bsmt. Seller will help w/closing. 18907 Ferry Landing Circle.
Eunice Phillips 301.455.8167
Aspen Hill/LWP Ofc 301-681-0550



Laurel Lakes \$299,900
Move right in. Beautiful and affordable, 3 lvl garage TH w/contemporary open flr plan. 2BR, 2.5BA, deck, living rm and dining rm area. MBR w/full BA. family rm, garage. A must see!
Eunice Phillips 301.455.8167
Aspen Hill/LWP Ofc 301-681-0550



Alexandria \$356,500
Gorgeous 1300+ sf, 2BR, 2BA luxury condo w/resort amenities, garage. Metro shuttle. Great value, views and location.
Sloan Wiesen 703.869.4825



Bristow \$514,900
Just reduced \$20,000. 4BR, 3.5BA front porch Col on lg cul-de-sac. Full fin bsmt w/den, hwd flrs on main lvl. Open, flowing flr plan. Deluxe kit w/island and eat-in space for table. Det 2 car gar and more. Close to major shopping.
Bob Jurgensen 703.929.8877



Falls Church \$459,000
No HOA fees. Easy commute to DC or the Pentagon. SFH inside the beltway. Great starter home! Close to shopping. Cozy fireplace, nice yard.
Pat Evers 703.851.8631



Manassas \$589,900
Immaculate SF on 1/2 acre, backs to trees, 2 garage, 3 lvs, 4BR, 3.5BA, FP, huge deck, gym, w/o, kit w/island, water community w/dock. No HOA!
Susan Harbour 703.928.1898



Manassas \$445,900
Just reduced \$25,000. Lovely renovated ramblar w/full fin bsmt. Recently fin hwdws on main lvl, remodeled kit w/all new cabs, countertops and appliances. 3/4BR and 2.5BA. Hot tub rm addition. Masonry FP in rec rm.
Bob Jurgensen 703.929.8877



South Stafford County \$849,900
4BR, 4.5BA, over 4600 sf, walk-out bsmt. 3.5 acres backing to Rappahannock River. Maple flrs on main lvl, semi-spiral maple staircase, BRs have Cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets and BAs. Fin 3 car gar. Gourmet kit w/stainless and cherrywood. High ceilings, 2 story FR and foyer.
Tricia Gonzalez 540.226.9449



Vienna \$510,000
Close to Metro! Beautiful 4BR all brick TH w/new carpet and paint throughout. Lg rms and walk-out lower lvl to an oversized courtyard, mature trees and park-like common areas make this home a must see.
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WEEKEND



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1 Bid Whist vs. Poker

"Bid Whist Party Throwdown," on the Silver Spring-based cable channel TV One, doesn't have lipstick cameras or glowering, intense players. It does have bid whist (similar to bridge) played by changing panels of black celebrities (that's Ella Joyce). See a new episode on Dec. 30 or a repeat on Dec. 25.

3 Robots Learn New Chores

Robots Learn New Chores

One would think we'd be good and scared of robots by now, what with all the killing they do in the movies. But they do so many helpful things, and they look so cute with their little LED eyes. Enter iRobot's Scooba (\$399), wetter cousin to the Roomba. Where the Roomba only vacuums, the Scooba picks up loose dirt, washes, scrubs and dries hard floors. And it's seriously going to freak out the dog.

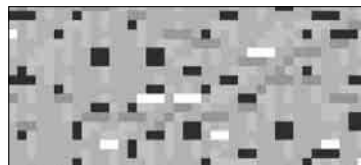


Two Dollars

The Jabba-enslaved, gold-bikini'd Princess Leia from "Return of the Jedi" is THE Star Wars drool-babe. Burger King's it'll-break-Tuesday watch (\$2 with Value Meal) proves that everything cool is from the '80s and involves fat.

5 Live Models!

Lingerie-clad ladies in the window of the Mervis Diamond Importers downtown are an attempt to get men to propose to their girlfriends. Yeah right.



4 Genius Ringtones

Behold the computational universe, enslaved by human lust for custom cell-phone ringtones. Wolfram Tones (tones.wolfram.com) uses the theories of paradigm-shifting scientist Stephen Wolfram, creator of computer algebra system Mathematica to generate snippets in 14 musical genres. Above, a visual representation.



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>> When he's not reading his piles of secretive postcards, Warren runs his own business, providing copies of medical journals.

Confidence Man

Frank Warren keeps thousands of secrets for complete strangers. But they know where he lives

Q&A | Deep Throat finally spilled the beans this year, and Judith Miller caved, too. Frank Warren wasn't surprised — hush-hush stuff appears in his Germantown mailbox on a daily basis. On a whim last year, the 41-year-old dad made 3,000 postcards asking recipients to write something true they'd never told anyone. He worked Metro stops and slipped the cards into library books, and they flew back, soon followed by homemade versions.

Warren posted the missives on postsecret.com, and now they're the basis of a book, "PostSecret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives," as well as an art exhibit (starts Dec. 15, 3307 M St. NW). He talked to Express' Vicky Hallett about his accidental trip into the world of the covert.

Q. Your home address is on the cover of the book.

A. It wasn't my idea. But I've learned that publishers pick the covers and I've learned to like it. When I first showed it to my wife, she wasn't pleased at all. But one of the reasons

this project has grown so fast is my relationship with people sending in their secrets. This is not a P.O. Box. I've been vulnerable first.

Q. How did this all start?

A. Postcards had always appealed to me. They have a metaphoric value like a prayer. I like the idea of communicating with a loved one on something so small you have to choose your words carefully and someone has to interpret it and bring their own experiences to it.

Q. What was it like reading all these secrets?

A. A few cards reminded me of secrets in my own life, which happens to other people too. They come to the Web site with voyeuristic intent, but then they think about themselves. Reading the cards, I thought of something that happened to me over 30 years ago when I was in elementary school. I never thought of it as a secret, but I never told anyone about it. So I wrote it on a postcard, shared it with my wife and daughter, and then dropped it

in the mailbox to send to myself. It became part of the project.

Q. And your secret was?

A. All the secrets are anonymous.

Q. How do D.C. secrets stack up?

A. I try not to look at the postmarks. Secrets carry the same themes wherever they come from, whether it's Silver Spring or South America. Loneliness, confusion about a romantic situation, sorrow.

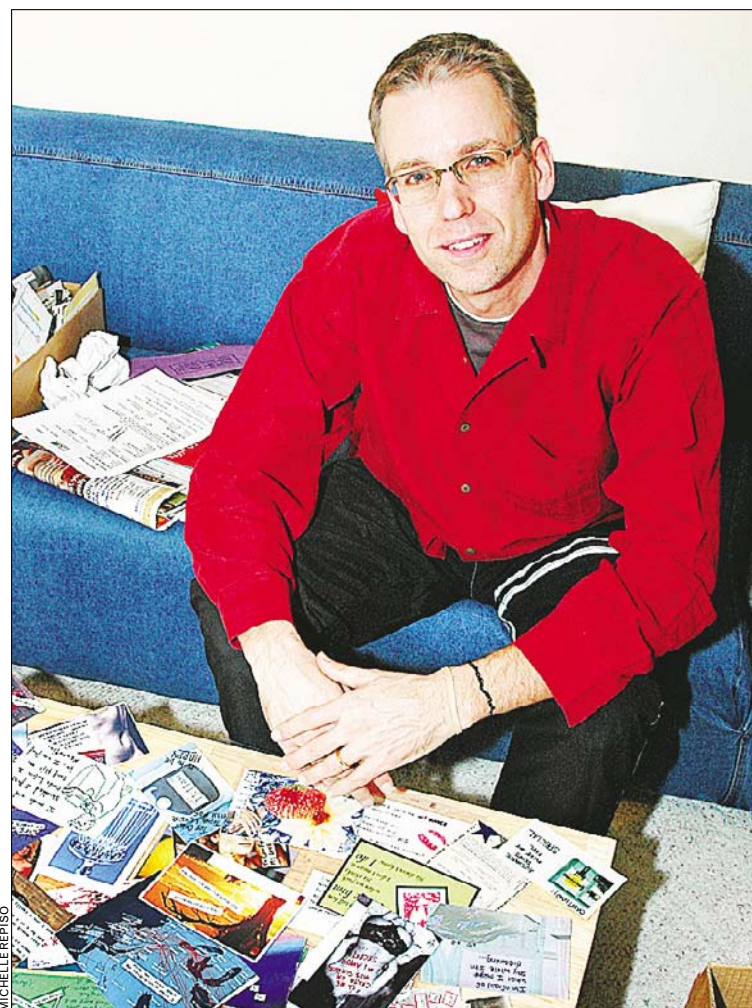
Q. Any good ones lately?

A. There was a wedding invitation with the names covered over with the text, "The only man I've ever loved was a guest at my wedding."

Q. Do you ever think they're fake?

A. The ones I post are the ones that ring with authenticity, like "I peed in the kitty litter box because you took too long in the bathroom." I don't think of them as true or false — it's more like fiction or non-fiction.

Q. So many of them are depressing. Do they get you down?



A. No. Every day when I get to the last card is when I get sad. It's cathartic. It makes us feel less alone.

Q. What kind of relationship do you have with your mailman?

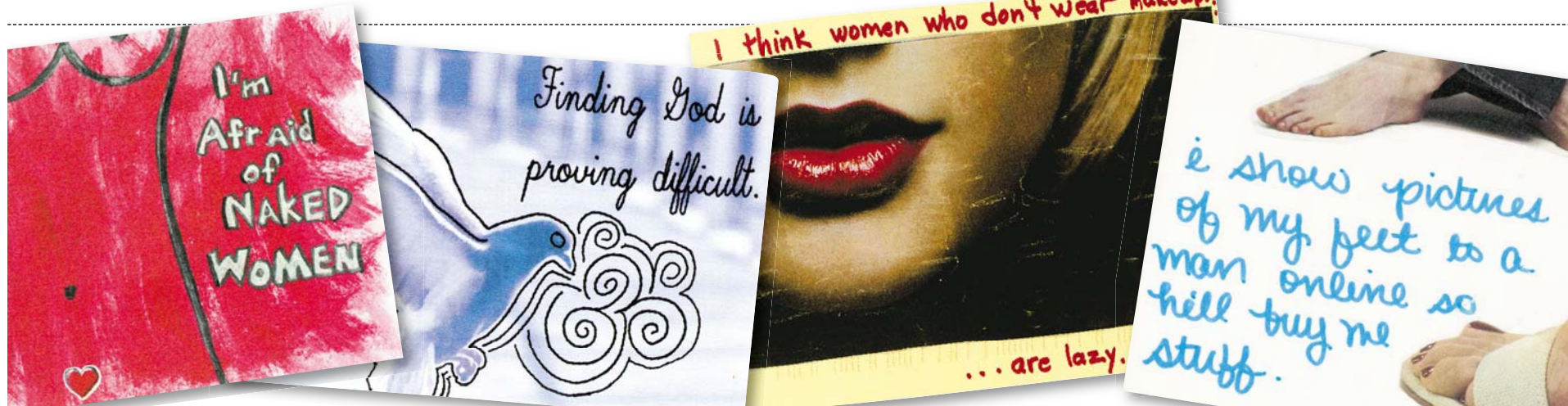
A. It's a woman. She likes me. I got one postcard from someone saying "I used to work in a post office and I read everyone's postcards." She liked that one.

Q. It's been a big year for secrets. Why are secrets so hot?

A. I think the project has benefited from Deep Throat, but also from the way reality TV has focused on how there's no shame anymore. Because it's not true. There are still things we're not comfortable with and can't share with our friends and family.

Q. What are the secrets of Germantown?

A. There is a Wisteria Lane, like on "Desperate Housewives." But other than that, that's what I'm trying to find out. My address definitely isn't a secret in Germantown.



Take Your Credit to The Limit



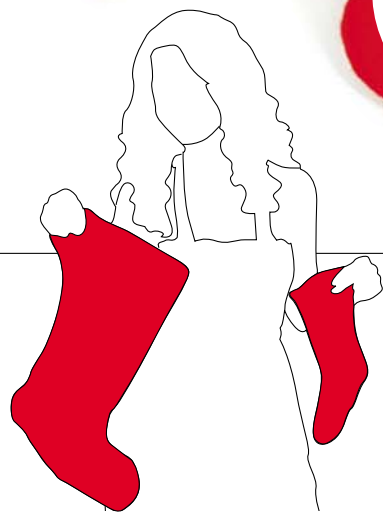
“Budget” is a flexible word. It’s even more flexible around the holidays, when it’s much more fun to buy presents than food or electricity. But the ultimate holiday shopping challenge is setting a limit and sticking to it (or going a little over — we couldn’t help ourselves). We chose three budgets and went shopping for a family straight out of central casting, with gifts for a rascally boychild, a prissy little girl, a vaguely rebellious youth and a couple of gender-typed parents. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

→ Do not, do not, do not buy her clothes. Give her the chance to buy her own with the ultimate shopping spree. With a \$10,000 gift certificate from **HYSTERIA**, she receives (in addition to \$10,000 of clothes from hip designers like L.A.M.B.): a one-on-one consultation with owner Courtney Reynolds or the store’s head of private previews, Kathryn Martin, chauffeured pick-up and dropoff service, a free pair of shoes from The Shoe Hive, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a handbag, a manicure and pedicure, and an in-home closet consultation. (Hysteria, 125 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria; 703-548-1615)



>> ABOUT THE COVER

Express intern Sara Atwater is wearing a silk Lela Rose dress from **HYSTERIA** (\$1,800, see address at right). Her gold Jimmy Choo sandals (\$680) are available exclusively at **SAKS FIFTH AVENUE CHEVY CHASE**. Makeup by **RAINELDA PEÑA FOR LAURA MERCIER** (Nordstrom Pentagon City). Hair by **LUNA’S HAIR DESIGN** (2014 P St. NW; 202-785-0011). Photo by Michelle Repiso.



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Those who can't buy, drool.
Those who can buy, buy these



↑ Park a MiG jet on your lawn and the neighbors get all weird. So send him to Zhukovsky Air Base near Moscow where a **MIG-25 FOXBAT JET** awaits. The plane is flown by a pilot who knows what he's doing while the crazy man in your life enjoys the puke-inducing sensation of hurtling through the skies at Mach 2.5 at 80,000 feet. (\$10,700, not including travel or accommodation, greatamericandays.com)



↑ Some parents may think it's unnecessary to buy a child a car, but some parents don't understand preschool social hierarchy. The gas-powered **AUDI CABRIO RIDE-ON** screams along at 13mph; it has rack-and-pinion steering, a full suspension and four-wheel disk brakes. The lights and turn signals all work, so Junior can practice his D.C. driving by not using them. (ages 6 to 13, \$16,000, faoschwarz.com)



← Isn't it cute when kids play in cardboard boxes? Cute, but not classy. Inflate the backyard housing bubble with a kid's McMansion from renowned play structure designer Barbara Butler. The **CAPE CODDER** (\$12,980), left, has three levels, including a loft beneath the roof. The **COUNTRY COTTAGE** (\$15,980), above, boasts hand-carved architectural details and a gated front porch. (barbarabutler.com)



↑ It's not your fault that your teenager hates you. Your teenager hates the world! Give her the **OCULAS**, a "private relaxation theater" with surround sound, a flat-panel video screen, your choice of a Mac or PC, and a leather massage chair. Put it in the living room and it's like spending family time together. (\$45,000, hammacherschlemmer.com)

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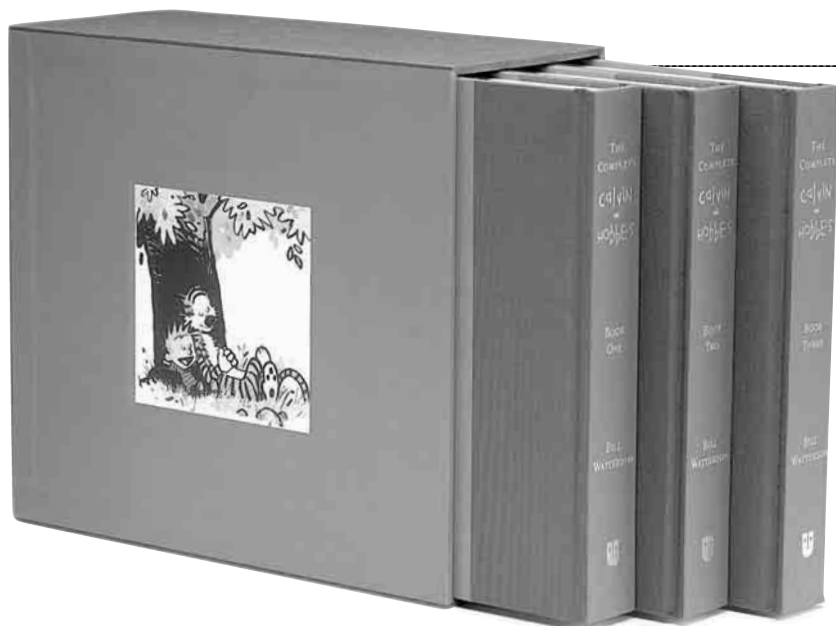
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← He's cuddly, yet somewhat bitter. What to buy? Bring back the comics pages of yore with **THE COMPLETE CALVIN AND HOBBS**. With an introduction by Bill Watterson, the set has all the Suzie-hating, unfair-parenting, sled-crashing good times a boy and his tiger can have. (\$105, amazon.com)



↑ Give the very latest in personal expression: **THE PODCAST FACTORY** contains a mic, a USB control box and recording/editing software—all you need to make even the most self-absorbed teenage monologue sound pro. (Throw in a copy for “Pump Up the Volume” for inspiration.) The equipment works with music programs like GarageBand, too. (\$180, see m-audio.com for retailers)

\$1000

One gets as good as one gives, they say



↑ If little Johnny likes bouncing off the walls, he'll probably settle down once you let him play video games on the ceiling. The **ZOOMBOX DVD ENTERTAINMENT PROJECTOR** doesn't have the resolution of a professional projector, but for the price tag, it's a pretty sweet deal. (built-in DVD player,

→ Tweens too lazy to bike and too busy to walk will appreciate the vintage-inspired **RAZOR POCKET MOD ELECTRIC SCOOTER**. It runs for 45 continuous minutes and goes up to 12 miles an hour, just fast enough to give Mom a heart attack. Mom could borrow it, too—the Mod carries riders who weigh up to 220 lbs. (In pink and green, ages 12 and up, \$200, Wal-Mart)



↑ Tiffany follows up last year's “Return to Tiffany” tag craze with the titanium and silver **TIFFANY 1837 RING** in midnight (it's also available in galaxy, a steel gray). It's light, which will come in handy if you give it to a girlfriend who's hoping for an engagement ring. It won't hurt when it clunks you in the head. (\$275)

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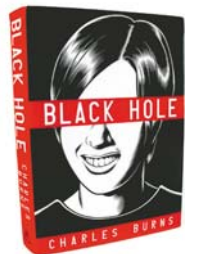
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↑ A girl's first "Do you like me? Check a box!" note deserves to be kept in a special place. The **GIRLFITTI DIGITAL SCRAPBOOK** features 12 customizable pages and has room for four eight-second voice recordings. (\$20, crayolastore.com)



↑ Those crazy kids go gaga over their graphic novels, and Charles Burns' **BLACK HOLE** is the masterpiece of the genre. Sure, it's about teen sex, but more importantly, it's about a sexually transmitted disease that turns people into freakish mutants. So it's a totally responsible gift. (\$25, bookstores)



← Know a woman who's looking for a threesome? The **A FEW GOOD MEN LIP SHINE TRIO** from Philosophy has three different tinted glosses, each with its own food-inspired flavor: The Muffin Man is lemon custard, the Ice Cream Man is pink bubble-gum ice cream and the Gingerbread Man is ginger ale. They have a lot fewer calories than typical holiday treats, too. (\$25, Sephora)



↑ Dad not a java man? Let him indulge in a little commute-ready Earl Grey with the **TEA-ZER TEA TUMBLER**. The loose-leaf tea basket also works with bagged teas; the polycarbonate cup won't absorb odors. (\$14, rei.com)

← Have a happy carnivorous Christmas with the **"ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS,"** the coolest pop-up book to ever give you nightmares about creatures that can eat you in one bite. Robert Sabuda's mind-blowingly elaborate pop-ups (35 in all) and kid-friendly text will thrill the Dino-fan in your family. (\$27, bookstores)

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DVDS



AEON FLUX: THE COMPLETE ANIMATED COLLECTION (\$28)

The producers of this set rehired the original voice actors to perform a few rewritten bits of dialogue. They used computer technology not available in 1995 to enhance the special effects. And they improved all of the coloring and line detail in the animation. A bit lavish for a show MTV mostly used to fill the space between Alanis Morissette and Pearl Jam videos, eh? But then you watch an episode of the adventures of Peter Chung's seductress saboteur and you realize how original it truly was. In what other cartoon does the same key that opens another dimension entered by crawling into a man's chest cavity also unlock the heroine's chastity belt?

→ **NOTABLE EXTRA:** Other short films from "Liquid Television," the animated anthology that introduced the Aeon Flux character.

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Cartoons for adults, fighting the power, love/hate relationships. KENNETH TERRELL

THE HAPPY ELF (\$20)

Two naughty kids get a Christmas treat: A street musician who looks and sounds like Harry Connick Jr. spins them a yarn about a "slow" elf named Eubie with a penchant for annoying the crap out of his boss elves by being too perky. He tries to

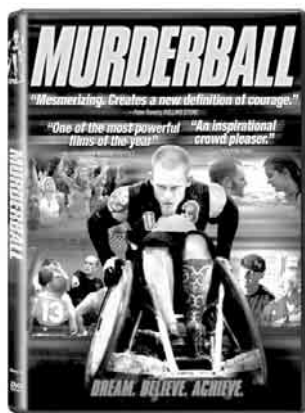
kiss up by transforming all of the mean children of Bluesville into gift-worthy darlings.

→ **NOTABLE EXTRA:** The box itself packs entertainment value — press the corner to see Christmas lights flash and hear Connick croon his 2003 song that inspired the film.

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Making fun of Harry Connick Jr., stringing popcorn for the tree. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

MURDERBALL (\$30)

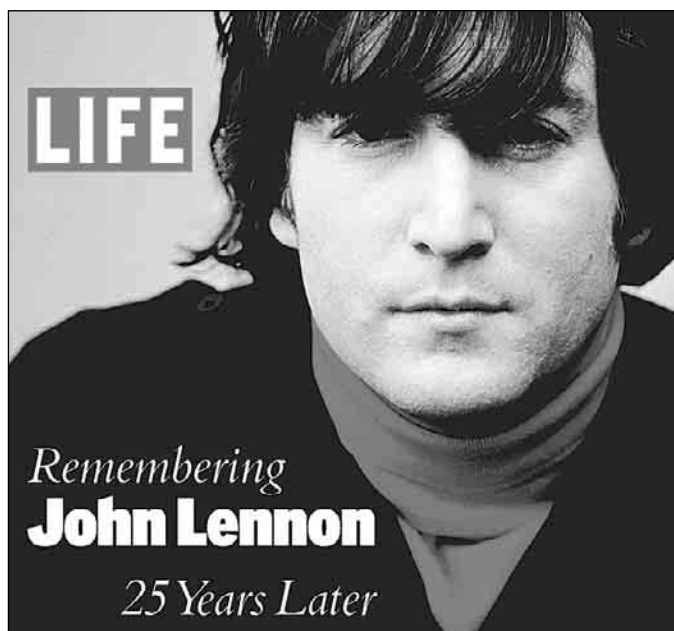
Do not mess with dudes in wheelchairs, especially the members of America's quadriplegic rugby team. They may not have full use of their limbs, but they are anything but helpless, both during their matches and in their day-to-day lives. Part action-packed sports flick, part in-depth look at disability, this doc follows the members of the team through the 2004 Paralympics in Athens as they compete against their Canadian rivals, coached by



an American turncoat who was cut from the U.S. team. It also explores how they ended up in wheelchairs and the process of recovery needed to get in the game. The first step: learning how to masturbate.

→ **NOTABLE EXTRA:** Team spokesman Mark Zupan joins the "Jackass" cast in the black-eye game, which involves ramming your face into another person's fist. He's very good at it.

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** "Cool Runnings," "Mad Max," America. v.h.



The Life of Lennon

With the 25th anniversary of John Lennon's death on Dec. 8, the beloved "smart" Beatle is ubiquitous. He's on shelves in "Remembering John Lennon: 25 Years Later" (\$18), "Lennon Revealed" (\$30) by journalist/buddy Larry Kane, and Yoko Ono's "Memories of John Lennon" (\$25). Music stores are rocking "Working Class Hero: The Definitive Lennon" (\$26), plus the remastered "Walls and Bridges" (\$19) and "Sometime in New York City" (\$19). Even Dolly Parton's new video for her remake of "Imagine" features home-video footage courtesy of Yoko. v.h.

THE TOMORROW PEOPLE, SET TWO (\$60)

These British kids in outrageous 1970s garb may look like the rest of humanity, but they're actually "Homo Superiors," more highly evolved beings who teleport to a secret hideout to chat with the friendly supercomputer Tim. Their mission: to fight evil forces from all over space and time. This set contains seasons three and four, including the episode "Devil in Disguise": "If Mike plays the African Tribal drum on TV, will he bring about the destruction of the universe?"

→ **NOTABLE EXTRA:** The commentary by the former child actors is better than "Mystery Science Theater 3000."

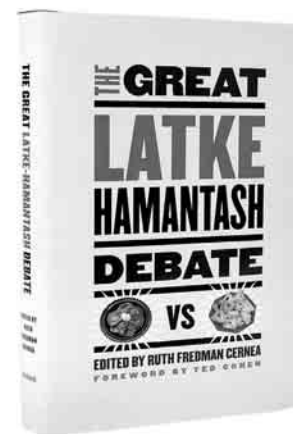
→ **IF YOU LIKE:** "Dr. Who," vintage clothing, talented youth. v.h.

BOOKS

THE GREAT LATKE-HAMANTASH DEBATE

edited by Ruth Fredan Cernea (The University of Chicago Press, \$18)

In the winter of 1946, Jewish students and faculty at the University of Chicago were bummed that the Christians got holiday cheer while they got bubkes. So they held a humorous symposium to determine



which traditional food was superior — the latke (the potato pancake popular during Hannukah) or the hamantash (the triangular filled pastry eaten to celebrate Purim). This tome compiles decades of rhetoric from some big-name academics, including Alan Bloom, Milton Friedman and Judith Shapiro, who offer such discourses as "Latke vs. Hamantash: A Feminist Critique" and "The Scientific Method and the Latke-Hamantash Issue."

→ **FIRST LINE:** "I regret that the ridiculously brief time allowed to me does not permit me to do full justice to the noble dish in whose cause I rise to speak."

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Puns, Yiddish jokes, more puns, academic theory.

→ **IF DON'T LIKE:** Fruitcake. v.h.



CELINE DION: FOR KEEPS by Jenna Glatzer (Andrews McMeel, \$40)

Books packed with removable document reproductions came into vogue a few years ago. Most address such weighty topics as D-Day and John Lennon. What does it mean that there's now one about Celine Dion? Yes, that reproductions of Celine's elementary-school report cards are as meaningful to many people as the Normandy invasion. But for Celineheads, a pull-out ultrasound film of son Rene-Charles in the womb will be a powerful lure. Sadly, nowhere does the book mention where the singer falls in the latke vs. hamantash debate.

→ **FIRST LINE:** "Therese Dion was none too pleased about becoming a mother for the fourteenth time at the same time as she became a grandmother."

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Scrapbooking.

HOLLY J. MORRIS (EXPRESS)

MUSIC

HYPNOTIZE by System of a Down (Sony, \$15)

When producer Rick Rubin isn't staging comebacks for the likes of Neil Diamond and the late Johnny Cash, he's behind the boards for art-metal anarchists System of a Down. It can't be easy to capture the quartet's kaleidoscopic anti-war screeds and whiplash tempo changes, but Rubin and co-producing guitarist Daron Malakian nail every note. The results are acerbic and absurdist, juxtaposing on-a-dime thrash and operatic sing-song — often in the same tune. The title track stands out with soaring vocal turns from Serj Tankian and Malakian, who assumes a more active-if-uneven role as a singer-lyricist while injecting rippling Middle Eastern melodies that nod to the band's Armenian-American heritage.

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** The Mars Volta, schizophrenic musical extremes
→ **IF YOU DON'T LIKE:** Nickelback, power ballads, rock that's safe.

PAUL ROBICHEAU



BACK II BASICS by Ginuwine
(Sony, \$19)

In the quick-changing realm of R&B music, very few new artists last long enough to make three albums. So if you're good enough to make five, as District native Ginuwine is, you're entitled to show off. His confident vocals save the disc's first single, "When We Make Love," from its overly earnest lyrics ("When we make love, you 'oo-oo-oh,' and I'll

go 'aa-aaa-aah"). For all his ability, though, Ginuwine has yet to develop a signature sound. For example, the other highlights on the disc are notable mostly because they recall other artists, such as the dreamy Stevie Wonder-like arrangement of "Want You to Be" and R. Kelly-style lyrics on "She's Like."

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Diamond pinkie rings, crunk clubs, Jadakiss. K.T.

COMICS

ALL STAR SUPERMAN #1 by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely
(DC Comics, \$3)

When Lex Luthor sabotages a scientific mission to the sun, Superman has to save the day — and live with the consequences. If you haven't read a Superman comic book in years, this series is the one for you, as the creative team gets to hit the reset button. All the baggage of 60 years is history — Lois Lane and Clark Kent aren't married, Superman has never died, Lex



To Xbox or Not to Xbox

Is it worth fighting your way up the waiting list to get an Xbox 360? Well, do you have HDTV? Though Microsoft's new console is still not quite movie quality, the enhanced visuals do make it easier to immerse yourself. In "Kameo: Elements of Power" (\$50), above — in which you play a princess who can turn into various monsters — the trees have leaves rather than clumps of green. Similarly, the basketball players in "NBA 2K6" (\$60) actually sweat. But even if you don't own an HDTV, you can still get in on the action. The story mode option in "Perfect Dark Zero" (\$50), in which players guide Joanna Dark through a bounty-hunting assignment, mixes run-and-gun gameplay with moments when it's better to sneak past your enemies. K.T.



Luthor has never been president of the United States. What you get is the Man of Steel at his most classic and cool. Writer Morrison's offhand delivery of genius ideas is captivating, and Quitely is perhaps the only artist ever to successfully illustrate how no one knows that the slouching, bumbling Kent is really the last son of Krypton.

→ **FIRST LINE:** "Gravity shields are shattering!"

→ **IF YOU LIKE:** Ray Bradbury; words like "helionauts," "nanonauts" and "meganthropes"

→ **IF YOU DON'T LIKE:** Comic book series that take six issues to tell a story. K.T.

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→ **FabYULEus.** Men dressed as elves + a special appearance by the Sugar Plum Fairy + a very special rendition of "Home for the Holidays" = conversation topics galore. Besides, if she thinks you're gay, you might do even better. Just saying. *Lisner Auditorium, George Washington University, 730 21st St. NW; Sat. at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m., \$19-\$49; 202-293-1548; gmew.org (Foggy Bottom)*

→ **Logan Circle Holiday House and Gallery Tour.** Imagine your future together in these architectural beauties, ranging from Victorian to mod (although you'll never be able to afford them). Also, check out the galleries on 14th Street and swing by the Wassail reception at the Studio Theatre. *Sun., 1 p.m.-5 p.m., \$15 in advance at logancircle.org, \$20 same day at 1324 Vermont Ave. NW (Dupont Circle)*

→ **American Analog Set.** Maybe you won't be his first, but together you might be the last ... to catch this Austin indie band on tour. The beloved group, whose lead singer dropped out of a graduate program at Columbia to work on their last album "Set Free," is suggesting it might stop the city-by-city thing. *Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Tue., 8:30 p.m., \$10; 202-667-7960; blackcatdc.com (U Street-Cardozo)*

→ **Art Night.** Alexandria's galleries roll out the red carpet every second Thursday of the month, so saunter around and wind up at the Torpedo Factory for refreshments and the opening of Metalworks 2005 in the Target Gallery. If you're not into the art, you can always stare into your date's eyes instead. *Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria; Thu., 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., free; 703-838-4565; torpedofactory.org (King Street)*

→ **DATE TO AVOID: Beautiful Child.** Nothing against the play, but the subject matter — an art teacher having an affair with an 8-year-old student — is sure to put the kibosh on any romantic plans



The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington takes pride in not playing it straight.

you have for later in the evening. *Warehouse Theatre, 1021 7th St. NW; Dec. 2-18, \$15-\$20; 202-783-3933; warehousetheater.com (Mt. Vernon Square)*

... Learn

→ **Cityscapes Revealed: Highlights from the Collection.** The National Building Museum's retrospective examines quintessentially American 20th-century buildings, with an emphasis on the details that often go ignored, like the rosettes in the museum's cornice. *401 F St. NW; opens Sat.; 202-272-2448; nbm.org (Judiciary Square)*

→ **A Tribute to Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity.** The 100th anniversary of the Great One's "Miracle Year" is almost over. (In 1905, he came up with that $E=mc^2$ thing) See it out with a multi-media performance by the University of Maryland's

Collegium Musicum. *Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, University of Maryland; Sat., 6 p.m., free; 301-405-2787; claricesmithcenter.umd.edu.*

→ **"The Ritchie Boys."** Camp Ritchie, Md., was the base of operations for a WWII Army unit made up of mainly German-Jewish emigres charged with demoralizing the German army through psychological warfare. The screening of the documentary is followed by a discussion with Camp Ritchie Veterans. Part of the Washington Jewish Film Festival. *Aaron and Cecile Goldman Theater, 1529 16th St. NW; Sun., 5 p.m. and Mon., 1 p.m., \$10; 800-494-8497; wjff.org (Dupont Circle)*

→ **Richard Avedon and His Portraits of Women.** As Twiggy keeps yapping about on "America's Next Top Model," a good photographer is a wonderful thing. And Avedon, aka "the poet of portraiture," was the best. Art historians explain why. *S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr. S.W.; Mon., 7 p.m., \$20; 202-252-0012; residentassociates.org (Dupont Circle)*

→ **"Violet in My Winter."** Choreographer Meisha Bosma and poet Rosemarie Waldrop bust out the pan-arts collaboration for Emily Dickinson's 175th birthday (which is actually Dec. 10). Stick around after to discuss. *Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St. SE; Wed., 7:30 p.m., \$12; 202-675-0367; folger.edu (Capitol South)*



MICHELLE REPISO

Washington Gets Lucky

GWU KIDS BETTER STOP bragging that they have the only bowling alley in the District. Hollywood-based bowling lounge Lucky Strike has set up its pins in the Gallery Place Entertainment Complex. (And this alley ain't alcohol free.) In addition to 14 lanes, there's also a restaurant and three billiards tables. Other locations are known for attracting the likes of Tyra Banks and Owen Wilson, so president Steven Foster believes high-profile types will flock to Chinatown, too: "I don't know who, but celebrities feel comfortable in this environment." If Tyra showed up, she'd pay between \$5 and \$8 per game. The bowling balls aren't the only spherical lure: The breaded, fried mac & cheese balls (\$7.50) are insanely addictive. **VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)**

... Bond

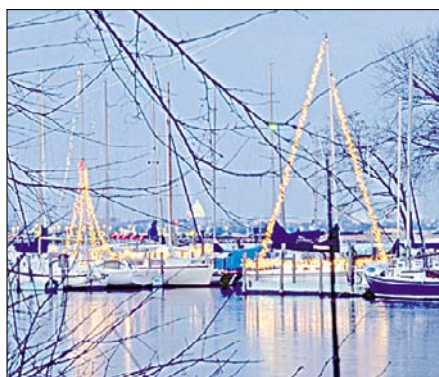
→ **Plantation Christmas and Family Holiday Buffet.** Your young ones may not believe in Santa Claus any more, but they still believe in carriage rides and cider. If the 18th-century celebration of fiddle playing and storytelling gets your stomach grumbling, there's a buffet. *Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Rd., Lorton; Fri.-Sat., 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. For program only: \$14 adults, \$7 kids 6-18, free for kids under 6, 703-550-9220. For buffet and program: \$37 adults and kids over 11, \$20 kids 6-10, free for kids under 6;*

703-550-9220; gunstonhall.org.

→ **Holiday Sing-A-Long.** Don't just bring your vocal chords to this annual jamboree of Christmas carols and Hanukkah ditties. You'll need a bell for the "Jing-A-Long" during Jingle Bells and a candle for the procession out to "Silent Night." Of course, this night will not be so silent. *Filene Center, Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna; Sun., 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m., free, plus a voluntary toy donation for Toys for Tots; 703-255-1900; wolftrap.org.*

→ **Holiday Kids' Yoga Workshop.** Time to get your offspring on their very own mats. Think of it as a Christmas present for you: Kiddie yoga improves sleep patterns and attention span. *Georgetown Yoga, 1053 31st St. NW; Sun., 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. ages 2-5, 2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m. ages 6-9, \$15; 202-342-7779; georgetownyoga.com.*

→ **Nutcracker Brunch.** A ballet buffet! Genius! Costumed cast members swing on by as you gorge yourself at stations like Mother Ginger's Potage, Sugar Plum Crepes and Clara's Land of Sweets. *Willard Intercontinental,*



Yacht-y and Nice

ANYBODY CAN TRANSFORM their house into a Christmas wonderland/abomination. But festively festooning one's yacht — that only rich people can do. Yacht owners go full throttle to evoke the most oohs and aahs at Alexandria's Parade of Lights; last year's winner was the National Potomac Yacht club, which featured one boat as Santa's sleigh and several others as reindeer. What Team Potomac is cooking up this year is top secret, but, said fleet captain John Burke, at least 18 boats are involved. The boat parade runs from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on Saturday. Watch from the Alexandria Marina behind the Torpedo Factory. **CHRIS MINCHER (EXPRESS)**

1401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; \$75 adults, \$37 children; Sun. (and Dec. 18), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 202-637-7450; washington.intercontinental.com (Metro Center)

→ DAR Christmas Open

House. Maybe little Suzy won't be so psyched to tour 31 period rooms depicting early American life, but she'll probably dig the hot chocolate and cookies as a way to top off a visit to the National Christmas Tree. Plus, there's Santa and coloring books for her, galleries and carolling for you. *DAR Memorial Continental Hall, 17th and D streets NW; Wed., 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m., free; 202-572-0563; dar.org. (Farragut West)*

... Spend

→ **Herndon Holiday Arts and Craft Show.** The usual suspects—ornaments, quilts, pottery and more from more than 90 artisans. *Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave.; Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free; 703-435-6868.*

→ **Politics and Prose Members' Sale.** Membership has its privileges. Members (you can join this weekend) save 20 percent on books, 15 percent on CDs and 10 percent on DVDs.



Playing with fire is even more awesome when holiday music is involved.

5015 Connecticut Ave NW; Fri.-Sun.; membership \$20 a year; 202-364-1919; politics-prose.com. (Van Ness)

→ **Spa special.** Skin Beauty Lounge has deals. For \$145 (\$20 off regular price), you can get a one-hour, 15-minute Normal Skin Facial and a Solar Manicure/Pedicure (which uses essential oils for winter-dry skin and nails), or a one-hour, 15-minute Stress Relieving Massage with the mani/pedi combination. 404½ 8th Street SE; through Dec. 31; 202-543-6993; skinbeautylounge.com (Eastern Market)

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BY INVITATION ONLY



Thomas Creaven, Dorothea Dudek

Thomas, 44, teaches science at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Dorothea, 40, is a visual information specialist for the National Cancer Institute. They live in Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

WEDDING: Dec. 30 in Rosedale, Md. A Catholic Mass (led by the bride's uncle) will be followed by a reception in Baltimore.

HOW THEY MET: Carpoolworld.com after Tom's car died. Four hours of commuting per day gave them plenty of time to bond.

FIRST MOVIE: "I invited Dorothea over for dinner and to watch 'Serendipity,' but we didn't really watch it."

HOW HE PROPOSED: In front of the altar dedicated to the Holy Family in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

MOST HATED CLOTHING ITEM: "Tom has this ragged old jean jacket from high school that he still wears."

STUPIDEST FIGHT: While doing yardwork, Dorothea told Tom she wanted an out-of-control shrub trimmed to be cup-shaped. "We had very different ideas of 'cup,'" said Dorothea.

WEDDING TRADITIONS: They'll lay roses before a statue of the Virgin Mary, a reflection of Dorothea's Polish heritage.

“She talks too much, but she's cute!” was Tom's first impression.



Love Is in the Air

TECHNICALLY, THEIR FIRST DATE was dinner and a movie ... aboard an overnight KLM flight to Amsterdam, where both Megan Gottemoeller and Peter Mitchell were changing planes. Megan noticed Peter in line at Dulles, then found herself seated next to him. Yes, he was cute, but her seat didn't recline properly, so she tried to change it — only to be foiled by a full flight. "We're not clear on what the movie was, but we do know they were serving bourbon," said Peter. The date ended with breakfast in Amsterdam before Peter continued to Tanzania and Megan to India.

Back in D.C., they hit the ground running, with a date at the National Arboretum. When it was time to propose, Peter cashed in some frequent flyer miles to meet Megan in Barcelona. He scoured the city for the perfect spot, waited until the sun was setting and the tourists had headed home, and broke out the ring.

Megan, 36, is the Global South Programs Coordinator for the Global Campaign for Microbicides. Peter, 42, is president of Marketing for Change, Inc. They live in Washington and will marry Dec. 30 in Columbia, Md.



Laura Cruzada, Hugo Gonzalez

Laura, 25, is a public relations specialist at the American Legacy Foundation. Hugo, who goes by his middle name, Dax, is 28 and is a media relations manager for the Physicians Insurers Association of America. They live in Alexandria.

WEDDING: Dec. 17 at a Catholic church in Austin, Texas, with more than 200 guests. The reception is at the couple's alma mater, the University of Texas.

HOW THEY MET: Dax was Laura's supervisor at the Austin PR firm where she interned. They hung out as friends for five months before their first official date.

“Dax was the funniest-looking person I ever saw.”

Nicholas Martinez, Monica Peña

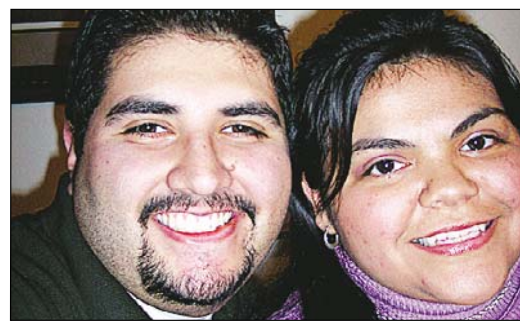
Monica, 24, is an environmental scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency. Nicholas, 27, is a data entry associate with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. They live in Springfield.

WEDDING: Dec. 31. It will be a traditional Mexican Catholic Mass in Houston, with 10 couples and five kids in the wedding party, over 300 guests, a reception

(with mariachis) and a dance.

HONEYMOON: A Lone Star State road trip, with a dip into northern Mexico.

HOW THEY MET: Both were math tutors at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi. One day, they were sitting at computers on opposite ends of the tutoring center. Nicholas thought Monica's AOL



screen name, "Earthnsungirl" was interesting, and he IM'd her.

FIRST DATE: U & I, a seafood restaurant. Dinner was "great, until he

spilled his drink all over me and the table," said Monica.

HOW HE PROPOSED: Nicholas took Monica to a Houston Astros baseball game on their second anniversary. After the fifth inning, "The Chapel of Love" started playing and "Monica, will you marry me?" appeared on the big screen.

THEIR SONG: "This I Promise You" by *NSync.

WEDDING STYLE: The colors are pink, black and hot pink — after all, it is New Year's Eve.

BIGGEST FEAR: "I'll cause the wedding cake to fall," said Nicholas.

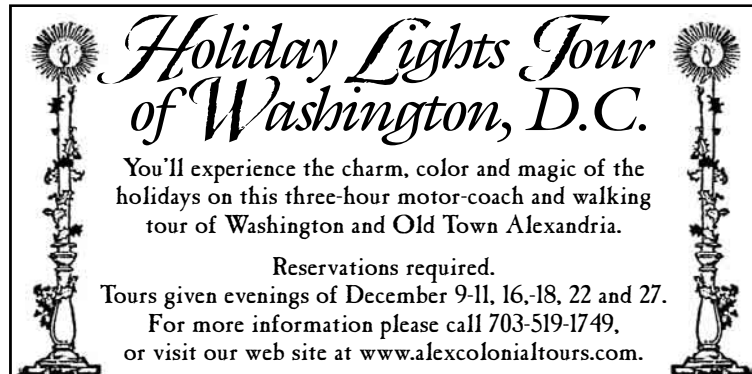


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